Benefits At A Glance Pension Guide Edmonton Edmonton Fire Fighters' Union

Pension Guide for City of Edmonton Fire Fighters' Supplementary Pension Plan

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Introduction

NOTE:

Words that are both Title Case and <u>dot</u> <u>underlined</u> are defined in the Glossary of Terms, included at the beginning of this Guide.

We encourage you to keep this Guide handy for future reference and to provide answers to any questions you may have. In addition to the information contained in this Guide, you can expect to receive a personalized pension statement each year indicating the value of your pension benefits earned under the FFSPP.

This *Guide* outlines some of the highlights of the *City of Edmonton Fire Fighters' Supplementary Pension Plan* (FFSPP). If there is a question of interpretation about the information presented in this *Guide*, Part III of the Collective Agreement and any legislated requirements will prevail. The *Guide* is not designed to be exhaustive and it is strongly suggested that members consult Part III of the Collective Agreement between the City and the Edmonton Fire Fighters Union (<u>Union</u>). Information in this *Guide* is not intended to encourage members to select any particular option. It is recommended that you obtain your own independent financial and legal counsel before making any pension decisions. Members are reminded that the FFSPP may be amended, altered or terminated as a result of collective bargaining.

The FFSPP supplements the benefits you have earned as a member of the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP). As the City is not the administrator of the LAPP, any details of the LAPP contained in this *Guide* are provided only to illustrate how the FFSPP supplements the LAPP.

The *Guide* is presented in three sections:

How Your FFSPP Works summarizes FFSPP details including eligibility, contributions and retirement benefits.

Retirement Examples answers additional questions you may have as to how these pension arrangements may affect your retirement. It also provides further details on what to expect as your retirement date approaches.

Life Events is important information about what happens to your pension if you experience a life event (e.g. death, disability, etc.).

A Glossary of Terms is included at the beginning of this Guide.

Contact information is included at the end of this Guide.

Plan Highlights

FFSPP and <u>LAPP</u>	• The FFSPP and the <u>LAPP</u> are <u>Registered Pension Plans</u> (FFSPP Registration number is 0409110). The FFSPP supplements the pension provided by the <u>Local Authorities Pension Plan</u> (<u>LAPP</u>). For example, the FFSPP permits earlier retirement than the <u>LAPP</u> , an additional pension to age 65 and additional survivor benefits.
Type of plan	• The FFSPP is a <u>Defined Benefit Pension Plan</u> . The FFSPP provides a pension based on your <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u> and your years of FFSPP <u>Pensionable Service</u> .
Contributions	• Both you and the City contribute to the FFSPP. For up to date contribution information, please see For More Information at the end of this <i>Guide</i> .
Vesting	• Your benefits are <u>Vested</u> upon joining the FFSPP.
Retirement age	• Normal retirement age is 60 under the FFSPP. You must retire and begin receiving a pension benefit from the FFSPP no later than the first day following your 60 th birthday.
Early retirement	• You may retire as early as 50 if you have at least 2 years of continuous plan membership, or when you have 30 years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> , if earlier.
Retirement benefit for member with no <u>Spouse</u> or member with <u>Spouse</u> and Option B	 Your annual retirement benefit prior to age 65 is equal to 2% of your <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u> for every year of <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>, to a maximum of 35 years, less the <u>Normal LAPP</u> <u>Pension</u>. At age 65, your annual FFSPP pension will be reduced by 0.6% of your <u>Average Contributory Earnings</u> for every year of <u>Pensionable Service</u>.
Retirement benefit for member with <u>Spouse</u> and Option A	• Your annual retirement benefit is determined as a different amount but equal to Option B based on the value of future expected pension payments. Option A does not reduce due to the <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> or at age 65.
Cost of living adjustments	 Pensions in pay and deferred pensions are increased each year based on a percentage of the change in the Consumer Price Index.
Termination or death benefit	• The FFSPP also provides a benefit should you terminate employment or pass away prior to retirement. For details, see Life Events at the end of this <i>Guide</i> .

Glossary of Terms

NOTE:

Words that are both Title Case and <u>dot</u> <u>underlined</u> are defined in this section of the Guide. Actuarial Reserve Cost: An amount equal to the lump-sum value of a member's future pension benefit. This cost ensures that a member's decision to buy <u>Previous Service</u> is cost neutral to the FFSPP, meaning the FFSPP does not subsidize any part of the increased benefit a member will receive by purchasing their <u>Previous Service</u>. The <u>Actuarial Reserve Cost</u> is different for every member, and depends upon the member's age, service, and salary.

Approved Leave of Absence: An approved leave of absence of greater than 10 days granted to a member by the City and which is recognized for pension purposes under the LAPP.

Average Contributory Earnings: The average of the earnings upon which you contributed to the Canada Pension Plan for the 4 consecutive years during which your pensionable earnings were at their highest.

Average Pensionable Earnings (FFSPP): The average of your basic rate of pay for the four consecutive years during which your pensionable earnings were at their highest. Pensionable earnings include service pay, acting pay, pay in lieu of statutory holidays and statutory holiday pay or other remuneration as allowed under <u>LAPP</u> and which are adopted in writing by the City and the <u>Union</u>.

<u>Commuted Value</u>: The amount of money paid in a lump sum today that is equal in value to your future expected pension payments.

<u>Current Service</u>: Current period of employment with the City on or after January 1, 1973 during which contributions to the FFSPP are made and includes leaves of absence of less than or equal to 10 days.

<u>Current Service Cost</u> (under the FFSPP): The cost, as determined by the actuary, of the benefits that will be earned on a go-forward basis under the FFSPP.

Defined Benefit Pension Plan: Under a Defined Benefit Pension Plan, the benefit you are entitled to receive is based on your years of pensionable service and average pensionable earnings. The FFSPP is a Defined Benefit Pension Plan, which is financed by member and employer contributions and by investment earnings. A Defined Benefit Pension Plan enables members to estimate future pension income with some degree of accuracy. **Dependent Children:** A child of a member or a child who is financially dependent on and living with a member and who is less than 18 years old.

Dependent Trustee: A person that is not the surviving <u>Spouse</u> of a deceased member or former member that has the lawful authority to make decisions with respect to the financial affairs of a member's or former member's <u>Dependent Child</u>.

Edmonton Consumer Price Index (CPI): The CPI published by Statistics Canada measures the changes in a fixed basket of goods in Edmonton. Changes to the Edmonton CPI are used as an indication of inflation.

Excess Employee Contributions: The amount by which your <u>Current</u> <u>Service</u> contributions made after 1996 plus interest exceeds 50% of the <u>Commuted Value</u> of your FFSPP benefit for the same period of service. This is determined at retirement, termination or death. <u>Optional Service</u> and the cost of that service, including interest are not included in determining <u>Excess Employee Contributions</u>.

Excess Optional Service Contributions: The amount by which your total <u>Optional Service</u> contributions plus interest exceeds the <u>Commuted Value</u> of your benefit earned due to <u>Optional Service</u>. This is determined at retirement, termination or death.

Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP): A Defined Benefit Pension Plan for employees of local authorities in Alberta. This includes cities, towns, municipalities, schools, hospitals and many other public sector organizations.

Locked-in Retirement Account (LIRA): A type of RRSP that is locked in, meaning the funds cannot be withdrawn until retirement. The funds must be used to provide a regular lifetime pension income before the end of the year in which you turn age 71. Special unlocking under the *Employment Pension Plans Act* may apply to some portion of the funds.

Normal LAPP Pension: Pension deemed to be payable under the <u>LAPP</u> for the purpose of determining the amount of the supplementary pension you will receive from the FFSPP. If you do not have a <u>Spouse</u>, the <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> is deemed to be payable for your lifetime or for 5 years, whichever is longer. If you have a <u>Spouse</u>, the <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> is deemed to be a joint life pension reducible by one-third upon the death of either you or your <u>Spouse</u>.

Optional Service: Includes your <u>Previous Service</u> and any service purchased due to an <u>Approved Leave of Absence</u>.

Pensionable Service: Includes your current period of employment with the City while a member of the <u>Union</u> during which contributions to the FFSPP have been made, and includes any <u>Optional Service</u> that you have purchased under the FFSPP. The maximum number of years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> is 35.

Previous Service: Service recognized for pension purposes under the LAPP for which Current Service has not accrued under the FFSPP. Before May 8, 2008, Previous Service includes an Approved Leave of Absence. Previous Service is only recognized under the FFSPP when contributions for Previous Service are made. An Approved Leave of Absence that was applied for on or after May 8, 2008 is not included in Previous Service.

Registered Pension Plan: An employer-sponsored pension plan that has been approved by and registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (formerly Revenue Canada) and the provincial regulatory body.

Spouse: The person to whom you are legally married and have not been living separate and apart for a continuous period longer than 3 years, **or** if no such person exists, the person who has lived with you in a marriage-like relationship

- for a continuous period of at least 3 years immediately preceding the relevant time, or,
- if the relationship is of some permanence and there is a natural or adopted child of the relationship.

Union (or EFFU): Edmonton Fire Fighters' <u>Union</u> or its successor.

Vesting: Vesting means you are eligible to receive a pension or the Commuted Value of a pension.

Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE): The YMPE is based on the annual average wage in Canada as defined and calculated by the federal government. It is used to calculate Canada Pension Plan contributions and benefits. The <u>YMPE</u> is adjusted each year to reflect changes in the average industrial wage.

How Your Fire Fighters' Supplementary Pension Plan Works

Eligibility

You begin participating in the FFSPP on your first day of work that you are subject to the collective agreement between the City and the <u>Union</u>.

Contributions

Employee Contributions

You contribute 45% of the <u>Current Service Cost</u> to the FFSPP. No contributions are required after 35 years of <u>Pensionable Service</u>. The <u>Current Service Cost</u> can change after each actuarial valuation. For up to date contribution information, please see **For More Information** at the end of this *Guide*.

These contributions are in addition to your contributions to the LAPP.

You will earn interest on your FFSPP contributions. The annual rate of interest is based on the average yield of 5-year personal fixed term deposit rates in Canada. This rate can change every year.

Employer Contributions

The City contributes 55% of the <u>Current Service Cost</u> to the FFSPP. This is in addition to the contributions that the City makes to the <u>LAPP</u> on your behalf.

Deficits

The City and FFSPP members share any unfunded liability costs that arise. The City share is equal to 55% of the special unfunded liability payment and the member cost is equal to 45% of the special unfunded liability payment. An unfunded liability occurs when the FFSPP liabilities are greater than the assets.

Words that are both Title Case and <u>dot</u> <u>underlined</u> are defined in the Glossary of Terms, included at the beginning of this Guide.

NOTE:

Eligibility / Contributions / When You Can Retire

When You Can Retire

You are eligible to retire and receive an FFSPP pension as early as age 50 or at any age if you have at least 30 years of <u>Pensionable Service</u>.

Normal retirement age is 60 under the FFSPP. You must commence your pension no later than the first day following your 60th birthday.

Your <u>Spouse</u> at Retirement will affect your FFSPP Pension

For the purpose of determining your pension options on your retirement date, an important factor is whether or not you have a <u>Spouse</u>. For the purpose of determining your pension when you retire, your <u>Spouse</u> is the person who is your <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date.

If you have a <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date, you would have two options - Option A or Option B. The pension amounts under Options A and B are different but equal to each other based on the value of future expected pension payments.

Option A (Joint & Survivor 60%)

Your monthly pension will be paid for as long as you live and upon your death, will pay your surviving <u>Spouse</u> a pension equal to 60% of your monthly pension as long as she/he lives. The pension determined is a different monthly amount than Option B, but equal to the Option B pension based on the value of future expected pension payments. Unlike Option B, the Option A pension does not reduce due to your <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> or reduce at age 65.

Option B (Joint & Survivor 50%)

This option is only available if your <u>Spouse</u> waives her/his entitlement to Option A by completing a waiver form in the prescribed manner. Your <u>Spouse</u> may waive the right to this pension within 90 days of your pension commencement date. If your <u>Spouse</u> waives her/his entitlement, you may choose Option B, a pension benefit which has a 50% survivor pension. Your pension will be paid for as long as you live and upon your death, will pay your surviving <u>Spouse</u> a pension equal to 50% of your monthly pension as long as she/he lives.

The determination of the Option B pension includes a reduction due to the amount of your <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> and a reduction at age 65.

How to Calculate Your FFSPP Pension if you do not have a <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date or if you have a <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date and you choose Option B

If you retire before age 55 and have at least 30 years of <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>...

The annual pension from the FFSPP is equal to:

2% of your <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u>

multiplied by

Your number of years of Pensionable Service

- At age 55, your annual FFSPP pension will be reduced by your Normal LAPP Pension
- At age 65, your annual FFSPP pension will be reduced by:

0.6% of your Average Contributory Earnings of Pensionable Service.

multiplied by

Your number of years of Pensionable Service

Example

Retirement before

least 30 years of Pensionable Service.

age 55 if you have at

For Example:

If Ethan retired at age 54 with 30 years of <u>Pensionable Service</u>, he would receive a pension from the FFSPP equal to 60% (2% x 30 years) of his <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u>. He would not be eligible to receive a pension from the <u>LAPP</u> until he reaches age 55. At age 55, his FFSPP pension would reduce by the amount of the <u>Normal LAPP</u> <u>Pension</u>. The following graph illustrates how the sources of pension would change from age 54 to age 55 in this example.



This graph shows that the pension payable prior to age 55 comes from the FFSPP only. Upon attaining age 55, the **FFSPP** is reduced by the Normal LAPP Pension. The LAPP pension begins at age 55. The FFSPP pension tops up the LAPP. For simplicity, this illustration ignores the effect of any COLA.

How to Calculate Your FFSPP Pension if you do not have a <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date or if you have a <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date and you choose Option B, (continued)

reaches age 65, his pension will reduce by \$5,700 (0.6% x 25 years x

Retirement on or after age 55	If you retire on or after age 55
	The annual pension from the FFSPP is equal to:
	 2% of your <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u> <i>multiplied by</i> Your number of years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> <i>less</i>
	Your <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> .
	 At age 65, your annual FFSPP pension will be reduced by: 0.6% of your <u>Average Contributory Earnings</u> <i>multiplied by</i> Your number of years of <u>Pensionable Service</u>.
Example	For Example: Drew retires at age 56 with 25 years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> . His <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u> are \$70,000 and his <u>Normal LAPP</u> <u>Pension</u> is \$27,500. He will receive a pension from the FFSPP equal to 50% (2% x 25 years) of \$70,000 (his <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u>),
	reduced by the amount of \$27,500 (the <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u>). This results in \$7,500 (50% of \$70,000 minus \$27,500). When Drew

Average Contributory Earnings).

How to Calculate Your FFSPP Pension if you do not have a <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date or if you have a <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date and you choose Option B, (continued)

If you retire on your 60th birthday...

The annual pension from the FFSPP is equal to:

Retirement at age 60 with any amount of service.

.

- 2% of your <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u> *multiplied by* Your number of years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> *less* Your Normal LAPP Pension
- At age 65, your annual FFSPP pension will be reduced by: 0.6% of your <u>Average Contributory Earnings</u> *multiplied by* Your number of years of Pensionable Service.

How to Calculate Your FFSPP Pension if you do not have a <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date or if you have a <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date and you choose Option B, (continued)

Retirement before age 55 if you have less than 30 years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> If you retire before age 55, have less than 30 years of <u>Pensionable Service</u>...

The pension you will receive from the FFSPP will be equal to the <u>Commuted Value</u> of the pension if it was payable from age 55.

The annual pension payable from age 55 is equal to:

- 2% of your <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u> *multiplied by* Your number of years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> *less* Your Normal LAPP Pension.
- At age 65, your annual FFSPP pension will be reduced by: 0.6% of your <u>Average Contributory Earnings</u> *multiplied by* Your number of years of Pensionable Service

You may begin receiving the pension before age 55, but it will be reduced so that the <u>Commuted Value</u> of the reduced payments are equal to the <u>Commuted Value</u> of the above pension payable from age 55. Because of your earlier start date, it is assumed that you will receive more pension payments. The <u>Commuted Value</u> of the reduced pension will be equal to the <u>Commuted Value</u> of the pension payable from age 55.

Example

For Example:

Fred retires before age 55 with less than 30 years of <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>. Fred's FFSPP pension payable at age 55 is equal to \$800 per month. It has a <u>Commuted Value</u> of \$100,000. Fred's FFSPP pension payable before age 55, \$725 per month, also has a <u>Commuted Value</u> of \$100,000. In this example, the <u>Commuted Value</u> of the \$725 pension starting before age 55 is equal to the <u>Commuted Value</u> of the \$800 pension starting at age 55.

Maximum Pension

The total amount of your FFSPP pension, when added to your <u>LAPP</u> pension, is subject to maximum limits under the *Income Tax Act*.

Cost of Living Adjustment

How your FFSPP Pension is calculated if you have a <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date and you choose Option A

The monthly FFSPP pension will be paid to you as long as you live. Upon your death, the FFSPP will pay your surviving <u>Spouse</u> a pension equal to 60% of your monthly pension as long as she/he lives. The monthly pension is a different monthly amount than Option B, but equal to the Option B pension based on the value of future expected pension payments. Unlike Option B, the Option A pension does not reduce due to your <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> or reduce at age 65.

Example

For Example:

Richard retires at age 53 with a <u>Spouse</u>. His <u>Spouse</u> signs the appropriate waiver form within 90 days of Richard's pension commencement date and Richard chooses Option B. On his pension commencement date, Richard begins to receive a joint pension equal to \$3,900 per month. When Richard reaches age 55, the pension will reduce by \$3,000 (Richard's <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u>) to \$900. When Richard reaches age 65, his pension will reduce by \$700, to \$200 per month. For simplicity, this example ignores the effect of any COLA.





can only elect Option B if his <u>Spouse</u> signs the waiver form within 90 days of his pension commencement date. **Option A**: Dale is eligible to receive a pension equal to \$680 per

month. **Option B**: Dale is eligible to receive a pension equal to \$820 per month. When Dale reaches age 65, his pension will reduce by \$740 to \$80 per month.

The <u>Commuted Values</u> of Option A and Option B are equal. For simplicity, this example ignores the effect of any COLA.

Cost of Living Adjustment

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Adjustments to your FFSPP pension will be made each January 1st to accommodate increases in the cost of living. Adjustments are made to a pension that is being paid and also to a deferred pension.

The COLA will be equal to the greater of the following:

- The COLA made to the <u>LAPP</u>, or
- The annual change in the <u>Edmonton CPI</u> to a maximum of 2%. Calculations are based on a November year-end.

Example

For Example:

The COLA granted under the <u>LAPP</u> is equal to 1.6%. The annual change in the <u>Edmonton CPI</u> is equal to 2.2%. Under the FFSPP, the maximum change is 2%. The COLA under the FFSPP is equal to the greater of 1.6% or 2%. Therefore, the COLA under the FFSPP in this example is equal to 2%.

Applying for your Retirement Pension

You must submit a written application not more than 90 days before the date you want to start receiving your pension. Applications can be obtained by contacting the City of Edmonton. Please refer to **For More Information** at the back of this *Guide* for the contact information.

How your FFSPP Pension is Paid

How Your FFSPP Pension is Paid Upon Your Death After Retirement

The death benefit depends on whether or not you have a <u>Spouse</u> .	The FFSPP pension is payable to you as long as you live. Upon your death after you retire, the benefit that is payable from the FFSPP depends on whether or not you had a <u>Spouse</u> on the date your pension payments commenced to be paid.
	Pension payable upon your death following retirement if you did not have a <u>Spouse</u> on your retirement date
If you did not have a <u>Spouse</u>	If you die before 60 monthly payments have been made and are not survived by a <u>Spouse</u> , the <u>Commuted Value</u> of the balance of your monthly payments will be paid to your beneficiary or estate.
	If you die after 60 monthly payments have been made and are not survived by a <u>Spouse</u> , your pension will cease in the month following your death.
	The FFSPP pension is payable on a monthly basis at the end of the month for your lifetime or the term of 5 years (60 monthly payments), whichever is longer.
If you have a <u>Spouse</u> and you chose Option A.	<i>Pension payable upon your death following retirement if you have a <u>Spouse</u> and chose Option A</i>
	If you have a <u>Spouse</u> at retirement and you chose Option A, 60% of your pension continues to your <u>Spouse</u> after your death.

Example

For Example:

Jay retires with a <u>Spouse</u> and he chose Option A. Jay will be entitled to a joint FFSPP pension equal to \$600 per month. Upon Jay's death, payments continue to his surviving <u>Spouse</u> equal to 60% of \$600, or \$360 per month. For simplicity, this example ignores the effect of any COLAs.

If your <u>Spouse</u> signs a waiver, you choose Option B and you die before age 55

A spousal waiver form is available from the City. It must be completed in the prescribed manner.

Pension payable upon your death following retirement if you choose Option B (your <u>Spouse</u> signs a waiver) and you die before age 55...

Upon your death, your surviving <u>Spouse</u> will receive a pension equal to 50% of the sum of your <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> and the FFSPP pension which you would have received, less the pension your <u>Spouse</u> is entitled to receive from the <u>LAPP</u> based on the <u>Normal LAPP</u> <u>Pension</u>.

The FFSPP pension payable to your <u>Spouse</u> must be at least equal to 50% of the FFSPP pension that you would have received if you were 55 years old.

On the first of the month following the month that you would have turned age 65, your surviving <u>Spouse</u>'s pension will be reduced by 0.3% of your <u>Average Contributory Earnings</u> for each year of <u>Pensionable Service</u>.

If your surviving <u>Spouse</u> dies before a combined total of 60 monthly payments have been made to you and your <u>Spouse</u>, the <u>Spouse</u>'s estate will receive a lump sum equal to the <u>Commuted Value</u> of the balance of the 60 monthly payments. The surviving <u>Spouse</u>'s pension will cease if the surviving <u>Spouse</u> dies after a combined total of 60 monthly payments have been made to you and your <u>Spouse</u>. This example shows the death benefit that would be payable where a member chooses Option B (the member's <u>Spouse</u> signs the waiver form).



For Example:

Richard retires at age 53 with a <u>Spouse</u>. His <u>Spouse</u> signs the appropriate waiver form within 90 days of Richard's pension commencement date. Richard chooses Option B. On his pension commencement date, Richard begins to receive a pension equal to \$3,900 per month. Richard passes away at age 54. His <u>Spouse</u> will receive a pension equal to \$1,950, (50% of \$3,900). When Richard would have reached age 55, the pension will reduce by \$1,400 (the pension Richard's <u>Spouse</u> is entitled to receive from the LAPP). This \$550 pension (\$1,950 minus \$1,400) is at least equal to 50% of the FFSPP pension that Richard would have received if he had survived to age 55. When Richard would have reached age 65, his <u>Spouse's</u> pension will reduce by \$340 to \$210 per month. For simplicity, this example ignores the effect of any COLA.



How your FFSPP Pension is Paid

This example shows the death benefit that would be payable where a member chooses Option A.

Example

Now suppose Richard chooses Option A. On his pension commencement date, Richard begins to receive a joint pension equal to \$1,100 per month. Richard passes away at age 54. His <u>Spouse</u> will receive a pension equal to \$660 (60% of \$1,100) per month for the rest of her life. When Richard would have reached age 65, his <u>Spouse's</u> pension does not reduce. For simplicity, this example ignores the effect of any COLA.



If your <u>Spouse</u> signs a waiver, you choose Option B and you die on or after age 55	Pension payable upon your death following retirement if you choose Option B and you die on or after age 55
	Upon your death, your surviving <u>Spouse</u> will receive a lifetime pension from the FFSPP equal to 50% of the monthly FFSPP pension that you were receiving on the date of your death. If you died before age 65, then the FFSPP pension payable to your <u>Spouse</u> will be reduced by 0.3% of your <u>Average Contributory Earnings</u> for each year of <u>Pensionable Service</u> on the first of the month following the month that you would have turned 65.
Example	For Example: Pierre dies after age 55. His <u>Spouse</u> had signed a waiver before he retired. Pierre chose Option B and was receiving a \$7,000 annual FFSPP pension.
	Pierre's <u>Spouse</u> will receive an annual FFSPP pension equal to \$3,500 (50% of \$7,000). Pierre would have turned age 65 on February 20, 2013. His <u>Spouse's</u> pension will reduce by \$2,500 on March 1, 2013.
	If your surviving <u>Spouse</u> dies before a combined total of 60 monthly payments have been made to you and your <u>Spouse</u> , the <u>Spouse</u> 's estate will receive a lump sum equal to the <u>Commuted Value</u> of the balance of the 60 monthly payments. The surviving <u>Spouse</u> 's pension will cease if the surviving <u>Spouse</u> dies after a combined total of 60 monthly payments have been made to you and your <u>Spouse</u> .

How your FFSPP Pension is Paid

If you choose Option B and your <u>Spouse</u> predeceases you.	Pension payable if you choose Option B and your <u>Spouse</u> predeceases you
	If your <u>Spouse</u> predeceases you, and you are receiving a <u>LAPP</u> pension in the form of a joint reducible by 1/3 option, your <u>LAPP</u> pension will be reduced. Your Option B pension will increased by an amount equal to the amount of the reduction under the <u>LAPP</u> attributable solely to the death of your <u>Spouse</u> .
	The reduction of 0.6% of your <u>Average Contributory Earnings</u> for each year of service still applies on your 65 th birthday.
	There is no adjustment to your Option A pension if your <u>Spouse</u> predeceases you.
<i>If your <u>Spouse</u> is more than 10 years younger</i>	Pension payable to your <u>Spouse</u> if your <u>Spouse</u> is more than 10 years younger than you and you choose Option B
	Upon your death, the pension benefit payable to your <u>Spouse</u> will be reduced so that it is equal in value to the pension that would have been payable if your <u>Spouse</u> was exactly 10 years younger than you.

How to Increase Your Pensionable Service

Note: Words that are both Title Case and dot underlined are defined in the Glossary of Terms, included at the beginning of this Guide.

How to Increase Your Pensionable Service

Increasing your Pensionable Service is optional...

Members have the option to increase their Pensionable Service under the FFSPP by purchasing Optional Service (Previous Service and/or an Approved Leave of Absence) if that service has been recognized as Pensionable Service under the LAPP, and the service is currently not Pensionable Service under the FFSPP. When members buy Optional Service, they increase the amount of FFSPP pension they will receive at retirement. Purchasing Optional Service may also permit a member to receive a larger pension before age 55 if they have at least 30 years of Pensionable Service.

Example

Your pension before age 55 will be significantly higher *if you have at least* 30 years of Pensionable Service when you retire.

For Example:

Assume that John joins the City of Edmonton as a Fire Fighter and at the time that he joins the City, he has 1 year of Pensionable Service under the LAPP with another employer. This example shows how John's FFSPP pension will increase if he buys the Previous Service. For simplicity, this example ignores the effect of any cost-of-living adjustments.

We assume that John has 29 years of FFSPP Pensionable Service. If he buys 1 year of Previous Service, he will have 30 years of Pensionable Service under the FFSPP. With 30 years of Pensionable Service, John will be eligible to receive a significantly higher FFSPP pension before age 55.



Previous Service under the FFSPP.

How to Increase Your Pensionable Service

Purchasing an Approved Leave of Absence

A member may purchase an <u>Approved Leave of Absence</u> as long as the period is pensionable service under the LAPP. The <u>Approved</u> <u>Leave of Absence</u> must be applied for by the member by April 30 of the year following the year in which the <u>Approved Leave of Absence</u> terminated. A member's cost to purchase such an <u>Approved Leave of</u> <u>Absence</u> is equal to 100% of the <u>Current Service Cost</u> to the FFSPP applied to the pensionable earnings in effect at the beginning of the <u>Approved Leave of Absence</u>, plus interest from the date that the <u>Approved Leave of Absence</u> began to the date of payment to the Plan.

Any application to purchase an <u>Approved Leave of Absence</u> that is received after April 30 of the year following the year in which the <u>Approved Leave of Absence</u> terminated shall be purchased at a cost equal to the <u>Actuarial Reserve Cost</u>.

Purchasing your <u>Previous Service</u>

Members may purchase <u>Previous Service</u>. Members must pay the <u>Actuarial Reserve Cost</u> to purchase <u>Previous Service</u>. Members can elect to pay this cost in a lump sum within 90 days of the date that they are advised of the cost or over a maximum period of 10 years by payroll deduction. If the member chooses to make payments by payroll deduction, interest will be charged from the costing date throughout the installment period.

Interest

You will earn interest on your <u>Previous Service</u> and <u>Approved Leave</u> of <u>Absence</u> contributions. Together, these contributions are referred to as <u>Optional Service contributions</u>. The annual rate of interest is based on the average yield of 5-year personal fixed term deposit rates in Canada. This rate can change every year.

Optional Service not paid in full

Any portion of your <u>Optional Service</u> (<u>Previous Service</u> and service due to an <u>Approved Leave of Absence</u>) costs that are not paid for when you terminate employment or retire may be paid in full as a lump sum within 90 days of receiving notice. If any part of the <u>Optional Service</u> is not paid in full, then you will not receive an FFSPP benefit for that part of your <u>Optional Service</u>.

A copy of the application form to purchase <u>Optional</u> <u>Service</u> is available by contacting the City of Edmonton. See the section entitled For More Information at the end of this Guide.

NOTE:

Words that are both Title Case and <u>dot</u> <u>underlined</u> are defined in the Glossary of Terms, included at the beginning of this Guide.

Retirement Examples

The following examples are for illustration purposes only.

Example 1 – Single retiree age 55 or more with less than 30 years Pensionable Service.

Doug is a fire fighter with 27 years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> and is retiring at age 56. He does not have a <u>Spouse</u> at retirement. The average of his 4 highest consecutive years of pensionable earnings is \$100,000.

We first calculate his monthly 2% benefit entitlement:

- 2% of Average Pensionable Earnings multiplied by the number of years of Pensionable Service divided by 12 months
- $2\% \times 100,000 \times 27/12 = 4,500$ per month

Next, we deduct the amount of Doug's <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u>. His <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> is equal to the amount payable as a single-life pension with a five-year guarantee from the <u>LAPP</u> as Doug does not have a <u>Spouse</u> at retirement. This pension is determined to be \$3,700 per month.

The amount that Doug will receive from the FFSPP at retirement until age 65 is \$800 (\$4,500 less \$3,700).

At age 65, Doug's annual FFSPP pension will be reduced by 0.6% of Doug's <u>Average Contributory Earnings</u> for every year of service. Doug's <u>Average Contributory Earnings</u> are \$50,000.

Here's how this reduction will affect Doug...

0.6% x \$50,000 x 27 / 12 = \$675 per month

At age 65, Doug's FFSPP pension of \$800 per month will reduce by \$675 and he will receive \$125 per month from the FFSPP.



Retirement before age 55 with less than 30 years' <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u> (no <u>SpouseSpouse</u>).



Example 2 – Single retiree under age 55 with less than 30 years of Pensionable Service

Brent is a fire fighter with 27 years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> and is retiring before age 55. He does not have a <u>Spouse</u> at retirement. The average of his four highest consecutive years of pensionable earnings is \$100,000.

We first calculate his monthly 2% benefit entitlement payable from age 55:

- 2% of <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u> *multiplied by* the number of years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> *divided by* 12 months
- $2\% \times 100,000 \times 27/12 = 4,500$ per month

Brent's FFSPP pension reduces by the amount of Brent's <u>Normal</u> <u>LAPP Pension</u>. His <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> is equal to the amount payable as a single-life pension with a five-year guarantee from the <u>LAPP</u> as Brent does not have a <u>Spouse</u> at retirement. This pension is determined to be \$3,700 per month.

The amount that Brent will receive from the FFSPP at retirement before age 55 until age 65 is equal to the <u>Commuted Value</u> of \$800 (\$4,500 less \$3,700) per month payable from age 55. It is determined that Brent will therefore receive \$717 per month from retirement before age 55 to age 65.



Retirement on or after age 55, member chooses Option A

Example 3

Example 3 – Retiree age 55 or more with a <u>Spouse</u>

Darren has a <u>Spouse</u> at retirement. Darren's <u>Spouse</u> does not waive her right to a joint 60% surviving <u>Spouse</u> pension under the FFSPP. Darren must receive Option A.

The amount of pension payable to Darren at retirement is calculated to be \$625. This pension will not reduce at age 65 and is payable for Darren's lifetime. Upon his death, his <u>Spouse</u> will receive \$375 (60% of \$625). The graph below ignores the effect of any COLAs.



Retirement at age 55 with <u>Option B</u>.

Example 4

Example 4 – Retiree age 55 or more with a <u>Spouse</u> and <u>Spouse</u> signs a waiver

Let's change Example 3. We will now assume that Darren's <u>Spouse</u> waives her right to a joint 60% surviving <u>Spouse</u> pension under the FFSPP. Darren may now choose either Option A or Option B. He chooses Option B.

Darren's <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> is equal to the amount payable under the <u>LAPP</u> in the form of a joint-life pension, reducible by 1/3 on the first death of either him or his <u>Spouse</u>. This pension is determined to be \$1,885 per month.

At retirement, Darren is entitled to receive a monthly pension of \$815 from the FFSPP (\$2,700 less \$1,885).

At age 65, Darren's monthly pension of \$815 under the FFSPP will be reduced by \$513. He will then receive \$302 per month from the FFSPP.

The following graph for Option B illustrates how Darren's FFSPP pension supplements the <u>LAPP</u> pension at various ages. For simplicity, this illustration ignores the effect of any COLAs.



Comparison of examples 3 & 4

Example 5

Example 5 – Compare Examples 3 and 4

Under examples 3 and 4, Darren has a <u>Spouse</u>. However, the amounts of the pension paid are different.

The average expected value of all future pension payments under examples 3 and 4 are the same on the date that the pension payments commence.

The following illustrates only the FFSPP pension that is paid so long as Darren is alive. The illustration assumes that Darren survives to age 80. For simplicity, this illustration ignores the effect of any COLAs.

This simple illustration also ignores the amount of pension paid to his surviving Spouse after age 80.



Retirement under age 55 with 30 years of <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u> with <u>Spouse</u>.



Example 6 – Retiree under age 55 with 30 or more years of Pensionable Service

Chris is a fire fighter with 30 years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> and is retiring at age 52. Chris has a <u>Spouse</u>. His <u>Average Pensionable</u> <u>Earnings</u> are \$110,000.

We first calculate Chris's monthly 2% benefit entitlement:

- 2% of <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u> multiplied by number of years of <u>Pensionable Service</u>, divided by 12
- $2\% \times \$110,000 \times 30/12 = \$5,500$ per month

Chris's FFSPP pension beginning at age 52 would be \$5,500. If Chris had less than 30 years of <u>Pensionable Service</u> on his retirement date, he would receive a significantly reduced pension. Please refer to Example 2 in this section for more information.

At age 55, Chris's FFSPP pension will reduce by the amount of his <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u>. Because Chris has a <u>Spouse</u>, his <u>Normal LAPP</u> <u>Pension</u> is equal to the amount payable under the <u>LAPP</u> in the form of a joint-life pension, reducible by 1/3 on the first death of either him or his <u>Spouse</u>. This pension is determined to be \$4,456 per month.

At age 55, Chris is entitled to receive an annual FFSPP pension of \$1,044 (\$5,500 less \$4,456).

At age 65, Chris's monthly pension under the FFSPP will be further reduced by 0.6% of his <u>Average Contributory Earnings</u> for every year of <u>Pensionable Service</u> after December 31, 1965. His <u>Average</u> <u>Contributory Earnings</u> are \$50,000.

Here's how this reduction will affect Chris...

• $0.6\% \times $50,000 \times 30 \text{ years } / 12 = 750 per month

Chris's benefit payments from the FFSPP of \$1,044 per month will be reduced by \$750 per month. Starting from age 65, he will then receive \$294 per month from the FFSPP.

The following graph illustrates Chris's pension benefits from the FFSPP and the <u>LAPP</u> at various ages. The illustration ignores the effect of any COLAs.

In this example, Chris's total pension does not change from age 54 to age 55. Starting at age 55, the FFSPP pays a smaller portion of the total pension. The <u>LAPP</u> pays the balance. For simplicity, this illustration ignores the effect of any COLAs.


Life Events

What Happens if I Leave the FFSPP Before Retirement?

If you terminate your employment with the City prior to retirement or move to another position within the City that is no longer governed by the <u>EFFU</u> collective agreement prior to retirement, you may have several options regarding your FFSPP pension benefit. The options you have will depend on your years of continuous plan membership and your age when you leave.

Years of Continuous Plan Membership and Age	FFSPP Options
If you are age 50 or older when you	You may elect to commence your pension payments immediately or at a later date but the
leave the FFSPP	pension must begin no later than the first day following your 60 th birthday. Your pension is paid at the end of the month.

Years of Continuous Plan Membership and Age		FFSPP Options	
If you are under age 50 when you leave the FFSPP	1.	Elect a deferred pension. Leave your contributions in the FFSPP and begin receiving a pension as early as age 50.	
	2.	Transfer the following amounts out of the FFSPP as follows:	
		a) Your <u>Current Service</u> and <u>Optional Service</u> contributions for service prior to January 1, 1997, plus interest, paid in a lump sum or transferred to your RRSP;	
		 b) The <u>Commuted Value</u> of your FFSPP pension earned for service on and after January 1, 1997, which must be transferred to an approved <u>Locked-in Retirement</u> <u>Account (LIRA)</u> or transferred to another pension plan if the plan permits; 	
		c) Your <u>Excess Employee Contributions</u> , if any, and your <u>Excess Optional Service</u> <u>Contributions</u> , if any, paid as a lump sum or transferred to your RRSP.	

How about some examples...

Example: Under age 50	Bev has terminated employment. She is under age 50. Bev made Optional Service contributions while she was a member. She has an option to receive:
	 Deferred pension of \$600 per month payable at age 55, reducing by \$450 per month at age 65,
	ог
	 \$20,000 of <u>Optional Service</u> contributions and <u>Current Service</u> contributions made prior to 1997, plus interest, plus a \$30,000 <u>Commuted Value</u> of her pension earned after 1996 plus \$1,000 of <u>Excess Employee Contributions</u>.
	The \$30,000 <u>Commuted Value</u> must be transferred to a <u>LIRA</u> and used to provide a regular lifetime pension income commencing at age 50 or later, but not later than the end of the year in which she turns age 71.
	If Bev elects the deferred pension, she could begin to receive the pension as early as age 50 or as late as age 60. If the pension starts before age 55, it would be reduced.
Example: Over age 50	A second member, Joe, has terminated employment. Joe is over age 50. His only option is to receive a pension. He must decide if he wants to receive the pension immediately or receive the pension at a later age, but not later than age 60.

What Happens to My Pension in the Event of a Marriage Breakdown?

In the event of a marriage breakdown, pension benefits – for both the <u>LAPP</u> and FFSPP – are viewed as matrimonial property. When a marriage breaks down, a pension is generally dealt with in one of two ways:

- The pension benefit accumulated for the duration of the marriage is valued and other property of equivalent value is transferred to the <u>Spouse</u> or former <u>Spouse</u> - that is, the non-member - in lieu of an interest in the pension, or
- The non-member receives an interest in the member's pension benefit that is, the pension is divided.

In order to divide a pension under the FFSPP, the City of Edmonton must receive a certified copy, (delivered in person or by certified or registered mail), of:

- A matrimonial property order; or
- An agreement under the *Matrimonial Property Act* in the form of a consent order; or
- A similar order enforceable in Alberta from a court outside of Alberta.

The City may charge fees to cover costs of providing information to you about your benefit entitlements in the case of a marriage breakdown.

You and your <u>Spouse</u> or former <u>Spouse</u> should consult your lawyers for information about the division of matrimonial property or for any other legal advice.

What Happens if I Become Disabled Before Retirement?

If you become disabled before retirement, you will continue to earn benefits under the FFSPP provided a number of conditions are met. To be considered disabled, you must be:

- receiving Long-Term Disability benefits from the City,
- certified as disabled by a qualified medical doctor, and
- unable to perform the duties of your employment.

If you satisfy these conditions, you will continue to earn <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u> and employee and employer contributions to the FFSPP will continue.

Pensionable earnings will be based on your annualized earnings in effect immediately before you became disabled and will include any negotiated salary increases for your position.

You will continue to earn pension benefits in this manner until you are no longer eligible to receive benefits under the Long Term Disability Plan or age 60, whichever is earlier.

The benefit payable from the FFSPP will depend on the length of your <u>Pensionable Service</u> and whether or not you have a <u>Spouse</u> and/or <u>Dependent Children</u>.

The total amount of the benefit payable upon your death, when added to your <u>LAPP</u> benefit, is subject to maximum limits under the *Income Tax Act*.

<u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>	<u>Spouse</u> and/or <u>Dependent</u> <u>Children</u>	Benefit upon your death prior to retirement
If you have less than 10 years <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>	If you have a Spouse	 Lifetime annual pension payable to your <u>Spouse</u> equal to 1% of your <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u> for each year of <u>Pensionable Service</u> reduced by the pension your surviving <u>Spouse</u> is entitled to receive under the <u>LAPP</u> corresponding to your <u>Normal</u> <u>LAPP Pension</u>.
		 Lifetime annual pension payable to your <u>Spouse</u> is reduced, when you would have turned 65, by 0.3% of your <u>Average Contributory</u> <u>Earnings</u> for each year of <u>Pensionable Service.</u>
		 The minimum immediate pension payable to your <u>Spouse</u> is equal to the FFSPP pension to which you were entitled at your date of death based on your actual <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>.
		 If your <u>Spouse</u> dies before a combined total of 60 monthly payments have been made, the remainder of the monthly payments, up to 60, if any, will go to your <u>Spouse</u>'s estate.
		 Pensions are payable on a monthly basis.

<u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>	<u>Spouse</u> and/or <u>Dependent</u> <u>Children</u>	Benefit upon your death prior to retirement
If you have less than 10 years <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>	If you have Dependent Children, but no Spouse and your Dependent Children are your Designated Beneficiary	 <u>Commuted Value</u> of your FFSPP pension, plus your <u>Excess Employee</u> <u>Contributions</u> and your <u>Excess Optional Service Contributions.</u>

What Happens if I Die Before Retirement? (continued)

What Happens if I Die Before Retirement? (continued)

<u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>	<u>Spouse</u> and/or <u>Dependent</u> <u>Children</u>	Benefit upon your death prior to retirement
If you have 10 or more years <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>	If you have a <u>Spouse</u>	• Lifetime annual pension payable to your <u>Spouse</u> equal to 1% of your <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u> for each year of <u>Pensionable Service</u> as if you worked to age 60, reduced by the pension your surviving <u>Spouse</u> is entitled to receive under the <u>LAPP</u> corresponding to your <u>Normal LAPP Pension</u> .
		• Lifetime annual pension payable to your <u>Spouse</u> is reduced, when you would have turned 65, by 0.3% of your <u>Average Contributory</u> <u>Earnings</u> for each year of <u>Pensionable Service</u> .
		• The minimum immediate pension payable to your <u>Spouse</u> is equal to the FFSPP pension to which you were entitled at your date of death based on your actual <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u> .
		• If your <u>Spouse</u> dies before a combined total of 60 monthly payments have been made, the remainder of the monthly payments, up to 60, if any, will go to your <u>Spouse</u> 's estate.
		• Pensions are payable on a monthly basis.
If you have 10 or more years <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>	If you have a Spouse and Dependent <u>Children</u> (maximum 4 children)	• In addition to the annual pension your surviving <u>Spouse</u> would receive above, pension payable to your <u>Spouse</u> equal to 0.2% of your <u>Average Pensionable Earnings</u> , for each <u>Dependent Child</u> , for each year of <u>Pensionable Service</u> as if you worked to age 60.
		• Pensions are payable on a monthly basis.

What Happens if I Die Before Retirement? (continued)

<u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>	<u>Spouse</u> and/or <u>Dependent</u> Children	Benefit upon your death prior to retirement
If you have 10 or more years <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u>	If you have Dependent Children, but no Spouse or have a Spouse who does not have lawful authority with respect to the Dependent Children's financial affairs and your Dependent Children are your Designated Beneficiary	Annual pension payable to the Dependent Trustee(s) monthly in arrears equal to: • 0.3% of your <u>Average</u> <u>Pensionable Earnings</u> , for each <u>Dependent Child</u> (maximum 4), for each year of <u>Pensionable</u> <u>Service</u> as if you worked to age 60. or • <u>Commuted Value</u> of your FFSPP pension, plus • your <u>Excess Employee</u> <u>Contributions</u> and your <u>Excess</u> <u>Optional Service Contributions</u> .
All years	If you have no Spouse	 Your <u>Designated Beneficiary</u> is entitled to: <u>Commuted Value</u> of your FFSPP pension, plus your <u>Excess Employee</u> <u>Contributions</u> and <u>Excess</u> <u>Optional Service Contributions</u>.

What Happens if I Die Before Retirement? (continued)

What if my Spouse chooses a lump sum payment instead of a monthly pension from the LAPP?

If your <u>Spouse</u> chooses a lump sum payment from the <u>LAPP</u>, your <u>Spouse</u> is only entitled to a lump sum payment from the FFSPP.

The FFSPP will provide a lump sum death benefit to your <u>Spouse</u> equal to the <u>Commuted Value</u> of your FFSPP pension:

• 100% of the Commuted Value of your FFSPP pension,

plus

• your Excess Employee Contributions and Excess Optional Service Contributions.

Excess Employee Contributions

Pension legislation requires that the City fund at least 50% of the cost of the benefits earned for service on and after January 1, 1997.

The <u>Commuted Value</u> of the benefit earned for service after 1996 is calculated and compared with your <u>Current Service</u> contributions plus interest made to the FFSPP for the same period. If your <u>Current Service</u> contributions made to the FFSPP, plus interest, are greater than 50% of the <u>Commuted Value</u> of your FFSPP pension, the excess is returned to you (i.e., <u>Excess Employee Contributions</u>). This comparison occurs when you terminate, retire or die.

<u>Optional Service</u> contributions and any pension earned that is related to <u>Optional Service</u> are not taken into account in determining <u>Excess</u> <u>Employee Contributions</u>.

You may receive your <u>Excess Employee Contributions</u> in cash less income tax, or transfer the full amount of the refund to an RRSP.

Excess Employee Contributions are different for every member and can be zero, but cannot be less than zero.

Example

For Example:

Sarah has accumulated <u>Current Service</u> contributions plus interest equal to \$45,000. Of this amount, \$20,000 is due to <u>Current Service</u> contributions made after 1996. She has terminated employment and the <u>Commuted Value</u> of her FFSPP pension earned after 1996 is \$30,000.

Sarah is entitled to \$5,000 for her <u>Excess Employee Contributions</u>, determined as follows:

- \$20,000 (post-1996 <u>Current Service</u> contributions plus interest) minus
- \$15,000 (equals 50% of \$30,000, post-1996 <u>Commuted Value</u>) equals
- \$5,000

Example

For Example:

Another member, Damon, has accumulated <u>Current Service</u> contributions plus interest equal to \$60,000. Of this amount, \$25,000 is due to <u>Current Service</u> contributions made after 1996. He has terminated employment and the <u>Commuted Value</u> of his FFSPP pension earned after 1996 is \$60,000.

Damon is not entitled to any Excess Employee Contributions. This is determined as follows:

- \$25,000 (post-1996 <u>Current Service</u> contributions plus interest) *minus*
- \$30,000 (50% of \$60,000, post-1996 <u>Commuted Value</u>) equals
- \$0 (Excess Employee Contributions cannot be less than zero.)

Excess Optional Service Contributions

The FFSPP ensures that the <u>Commuted Value</u> of your <u>Optional Service</u> pension is not less than your <u>Optional Service</u> contributions with interest.

The <u>Commuted Value</u> of your benefit earned for <u>Optional Service</u> is calculated and compared with your <u>Optional Service</u> contributions plus interest made to the FFSPP for the same period. If your <u>Optional Service</u> contributions made to the FFSPP, plus interest, are greater than the <u>Commuted Value of your Optional Service FFSPP pension</u>, the excess is returned to you (i.e., <u>Excess Optional Service Contributions</u>). This comparison occurs when you terminate, retire or die.

<u>Current Service</u> contributions and any pension earned that is related to <u>Current Service</u> are not taken into account in determining <u>Excess Optional</u> <u>Service Contributions</u>.

You may receive your <u>Excess Optional Service Contributions</u> in cash less income tax, or transfer the full amount of the refund to an RRSP.

Excess Optional Service Contributions are different for every member and can be zero, but cannot be less than zero.

Example	 For Example: Navin has accumulated <u>Optional Service</u> contributions plus interest equal to \$10,000. He has terminated employment and the <u>Commuted Value</u> of his FFSPP <u>Optional Service</u> pension is \$8,000. Navin is entitled to \$2,000 for his <u>Excess Optional Service Contributions</u>, determined as follows: \$10,000 (<u>Optional Service</u> contributions plus interest) <i>minus</i> \$8,000 (<u>Commuted Value</u> of <u>Optional Service</u> pension) <i>equals</i> \$2,000
Example	For Example: Another member, Liane, has accumulated <u>Optional Service</u> contributions plus interest equal to \$20,000. She has terminated employment and the <u>Commuted Value</u> of his FFSPP <u>Optional Service</u> pension is \$25,000.

Liane is not entitled to any <u>Excess Optional Service Contributions</u>. This is determined as follows:

- \$20,000 (<u>Optional Service</u> contributions plus interest) *minus*
- \$25,000 (Commuted Value of Optional Service pension) *equals*
- \$0 (Excess Optional Service Contributions cannot be less than zero.)

For More Information

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Mail: #200, 7024 – 101 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T6A 0H7

Aon Hewitt

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Mail: Edmonton City Centre West Suite 300D, 10200 – 102 Avenue NW Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4B7

Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP)

Phone: 1-877-649-5277 *Fax*: 780-421-1652

Email: memberservices@apsc.ca

Mail: Alberta Pensions Services 5103 Windermere Boulevard SW Edmonton, Alberta T6W 0S9

Website: www.lapp.ca

Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security

Phone: 1-800-277-9914

Mail: Service Canada Suite 1440, Canada Place 9700 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4C1

Website: www.servicecanada.gc.ca