

March 18, 2024

A guide to what happens if your employer terminates membership

1. My employer has terminated - what happens now?

- If you are age 55 or over, you may apply for your pension
- If you are under age 55, you may leave your pension in the Plan or transfer it to another approved arrangement: **According to Federal MEPP legislation and Plan Rules, funds would have to be transferred to a locked-in RRSP or LIRA.**

2. I am under age 55 – can I transfer now?

- If you are under age 55, you may choose to terminate Plan participation **at the end of 24 consecutive months during which no contributions have been made on your behalf.** At that time, you will have the option of transferring the lump sum value of your pension to a locked-in retirement savings vehicle such as a locked-in RRSP or LIRA.

WHY DO I HAVE TO WAIT 24 MONTHS?

- The 24-month period is designed to help members stay in the Plan. If your employer terminates participation and you get a job with another participating employer within the 24-month period, your membership is unbroken and there is no need to go through the eligibility requirements. **This is in accordance with Section 2 (2) (a) of the Pension Benefits Standards Act.**

3. I am over age 55, how do I apply for retirement?

- If you are over 55 at the date your employer terminated and wish to retire, you should contact the MEPP at **admin@iammepp.ca**

4. I am over age 55 but I do not want to retire

- You may leave your benefits in the Plan until you wish to retire; by doing so, you may benefit from future benefit improvements.

CAN I RECEIVE A LUMP SUM PAYMENT AT THIS TIME?

- Yes, if the value of your lump sum pension benefit is **less than 20% of the *Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings* (YMPE)** for the calendar year in which your membership ceases.
 - **The YMPE is a value set each year by the Federal Government at the start of each year.**
 - 2024 YMPE is \$68,500
 - 20% of YMPE is \$13,700
- Go to our website WWW.IAMMEPP.CA and create a member account.