

BULLETIN NUMBER:	PENS 16-002
TITLE:	British Columbia signs Agreement
LEGISLATION:	<i>Pension Benefits Standards Act</i>
DATE:	MAY 2016

PURPOSE

This bulletin outlines some of the impacts of the 2016 Agreement Respecting Multi-Jurisdictional Pension Plans (the 2016 Agreement) on registered pension plans with members in certain jurisdictions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

British Columbia has signed the 2016 Agreement along with the provinces of Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia (individually, a Participating Jurisdiction or, collectively, the Participating Jurisdictions).

The 2016 Agreement provides a clear administrative framework for both the regulators in the Participating Jurisdictions and for the administrators of more than 1,100 pension plans registered with the a Participating Jurisdiction. The 2016 Agreement furthers the goal of harmonization of pension regulation.

The 2016 Agreement becomes effective July 1, 2016 and applies to plans registered with the British Columbia Superintendent of Pension that have members in one or more of the Participating Jurisdictions.

PLANS SUBJECT TO THE 2016 AGREEMENT

The 2016 Agreement applies to more than 1,000 plans registered in the Participating Jurisdictions other than British Columbia. These plans provide benefits to 70,700 British Columbians. In addition, approximately 110 pension plans registered with the Superintendent covering 7,500 members employed in other Participating Jurisdictions are now subject to the 2016 Agreement.

NOTABLE CHANGES

While day-to-day administration will not change significantly and the requirements of the British Columbia Pension Benefits Standards Act (the Act) will continue to apply to plans registered with the Superintendent, there are some notable changes in relation to the 2016 Agreement.

- The funding rules established under the Act will apply to the plan, without regard to the number of members employed in the Participating Jurisdictions.
- The information required to be provided to members and retired members of the plan, as set out in the Act for British Columbia members may be used for all members in Participating Jurisdictions. For example, if the plan has members in BC and Ontario and is registered with the Superintendent, Ontario members may receive information based on the requirements set out in BC legislation.
- Where a member terminates from active service, the benefits will be treated in accordance with the legislated requirements of the jurisdiction in which the member terminated their service without regard to where the benefits were accrued.
- In the event of a dispute involving a member requiring a decision from the regulatory authority, the initial decision will be made by the Superintendent. The decision will be made applying the legislation of the Participating Authority, but the decision will be issued by the Superintendent. Any review of that decision will then be made through the process of the Participating Jurisdiction.

Most of the changes set out in the 2016 Agreement relate to regulatory matters, including which of the Participating Jurisdictions is the major authority for the plan. For more information on the impact of the 2016 Agreement on your plan, you should speak with a service provider such as legal counsel or a consultant.

PLANS NOT AFFECTED

The 1968 Memorandum of Reciprocal Agreement, signed by British Columbia in 1994, will continue to apply to multi-jurisdictional plans with members in jurisdictions other than the Participating Jurisdictions. These jurisdictions are Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador.

In addition, the 2000 Memorandum of Agreement between British Columbia and Canada will continue to apply to plans that have members subject to the federal *Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985*.

MORE INFORMATION

You can find a copy of the Agreement on our [website](#).

If you have any questions, you may contact the Superintendent at Pensions@ficombc.ca or by phone at 604.660.3555.

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