

# PENSION NEWS

INFORMATION FOR RETIRED TEACHERS AND THEIR SURVIVORS

WINTER 2015

PAGE 2

## EXPANDED HORIZONS

How retirement has changed  
Gord Doctorow's perspective  
on teaching

Image: Gerald Allain

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

3 THE 'NEW' PENSIONER

4 UNDERSTANDING  
INFLATION

6 KNOW THE  
RE-EMPLOYMENT  
RULES

7 DIGITAL BRIEFS

# EXPANDED HORIZONS

Gord Doctorow didn't see retirement as a chance to leave the classroom and teaching, rather it was an opportunity to bring the classroom with him on his retirement journey.

Rather than simply retiring after teaching high school in Scarborough with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) for 26 years, Gord decided in 2002 he was ready for the next phase of his career.

Two years before making the decision to retire from the TDSB, he started working with Nova Southeastern University in Florida, coaching students through the doctorate process. He holds a Doctorate of education himself, as well as a Masters in computer science and mathematics. From his home in Toronto, he connected with his students, online or over the phone, with a face-to-face meeting about once a year.

"Working with the doctorate students for a couple of years before I retired from teaching high school fulltime gave me the chance to know that this is something that I can do, and that I wanted to do when I retired," he said. "It really helped with the transition from working full-time to retirement."

The university approached him and asked if he would be interested in teaching online mathematics courses. He started by teaching high school teachers, and then developed two graduate-level courses, linear algebra and abstract algebra, aimed at those who teach mathematics in colleges.

"The university has online platforms that allow me to connect with my students for two hours every week. They can see my PowerPoint presentation, they can hear my voice, they can ask me questions or text me," he says. "As long as I have WiFi, I can teach my courses."

He and his wife, Roz, are also both passionate travellers, as well as educators. The flexibility of teaching online courses has allowed Gord to combine the two. He's taught classes from China, from the Grand Canyon and from California. "Sometimes the only challenge is getting the time zones straight between me and my students, because they're all over North America too."

Gord's new role also immersed him back into a world he has long loved – mathematics.



"I love the math. And developing the math is great. There are a lot of new developments in mathematics, whole new areas, cryptography and string theory for example, that are just being investigated and I'm getting to learn about them and am teaching them to myself, so that I can continue to pass along the knowledge to my students."

"Mathematics is a highly creative and imaginative field," he said. "And to be a good teacher, you have to be a learner yourself. Otherwise math just becomes a routine exercise and no one, teacher or student, enjoys it."

## Three facts about Gord:

1. He was born in Azerbaijan, and his younger sister was born in a refugee camp. After WWII ended, his family moved to Toronto and it has been his home base ever since.
2. He got his first tattoo, a nod to artist MC Escher, in the first year of retirement.
3. He and his wife, Roz, have two sons. Neil started a school for elite athletes and Cory is an award-winning science fiction writer.

# THE 'NEW' PENSIONER

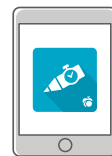
## Fast facts about our retired members and technology



You love our videos.  
Our Reel Retirement series has garnered more than 20,000 views on YouTube and Facebook

AGE  
55

Half of the 10,000+ of you who like [facebook.com/myOTPP](https://facebook.com/myOTPP) are over the age of 55



You've used Worklog, our app to track your re-employment, more than 46,000 times in the last year

90%+

More than 90% of you who are between the ages of 50 and 70 have registered for an online Ontario Teachers' account.

Not registered? Give us a call!  
All we need is an email address to get you online.



About 45% of you open emails we send on mobile devices

98%

98% of pension applications are completed online

Demographic trends show our retiree ranks swelling and leading longer lives. In 2000, there were two working members for every retiree in our plan. By 2015, that ratio has shrunk to 1.4 to 1.

You're a growing group and you're living longer lives. You're also redefining what retirement is. For the many members we've talked to, retirement isn't just about rest and relaxation. You're travelling, you're contributing to your communities and you're discovering new and re-discovering old skills (just read Gord's story on the opposite page).

One of the biggest shifts we've noticed is your adoption of technology. Here are a few of the things we've done to ensure that we continue to meet you in the digital realm throughout your retirement.

- We've expanded our suite of social media channels to include Pinterest! Women over the age of 50 are among Pinterest's largest group of users. This is a close reflection of our plan membership. Explore [www.pinterest.com/myOTPP](https://www.pinterest.com/myOTPP) to find tips and inspiration for your retirement.
- All of the videos on our website and YouTube channel have either captions or transcripts available.
- Find yourself squinting when you're reading our website? We use industry accessibility standards to ensure that the colours we use provide a high enough contrast for better legibility. The fonts we use are also scalable, so you can increase the size for easier reading.

# UNDERSTANDING INFLATION

In Part 2 of our Science of Sustainability series we explore how inflation protection keeps your plan strong. Visit [www.otpp.com/PNOL](http://www.otpp.com/PNOL) to read Part 1, the Demographic Balancing Act.

Inflation protection is a feature of your pension plan that helps you keep up with the cost of living during your retirement. It's also a tool we use to help keep your pension healthy by adapting to the ever-changing economic and demographic tides.

**We determine the rate using:**

- 1) Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index;
- 2) our funding status; and
- 3) when you taught.

The 2016  
inflation rate is:

**1.3%**

**Sign in to your Ontario Teachers' account  
to see the impact on your pension.**

\* A portion of the surpluses were used to restore pensions to the level they would have been at if full inflation protection had been provided at Jan. 1, 2014 and 2015, respectively.

## The big picture

Every year we check the financial health of our plan to make sure we can pay pensions for the next 70 years and beyond.

Inflation protection is a lever that can be adjusted by our plan sponsors, the Ontario Teachers' Federation and the Ontario government, in the event of a funding surplus or shortfall.

Inflation protection on pension credit you earned after 2009 will depend on these financial checks. Protection on credit earned between 2010 and 2013 can range between 50 and 100% of the rate, and between 0 and 100% for credit earned in 2014 and beyond. In 2016, pension credit earned after 2009 will receive 70% of the rate (that's 0.91%).

Chances are, since you're already retired, the bulk of your credit was earned before 2010, so the impact on your monthly pension won't be very big.

But, adjusting the amount of inflation protection on post-2009 credit can have a big impact on the plan's viability. Take a look at how inflation protection has helped us keep the plan strong:

- In 2012, we projected a **\$9.6 billion funding shortfall**, so inflation protection levels were scaled back to 50% for pension credit earned between 2010 and 2013 and 45% for post-2013 credit. If we had provided full inflation protection on all credit, we would have faced a **shortfall of \$14.8 billion**.
- In 2014, we projected a **\$5.1 billion funding surplus\***, so inflation protection levels for pension credit earned after 2009 was increased to 60%. If we provided full inflation protection on all credit, we would have faced a **\$13.6 billion shortfall**.
- And in 2015, a portion of the **\$6.8 billion funding surplus\*** was used to increase inflation protection to 70% for pension credit earned after 2009. If we provided full inflation protection on all credit, we would have faced an **\$8.7 billion shortfall**.



Explore inflation online  
[www.otpp.com/inflation-pn](http://www.otpp.com/inflation-pn)



# KNOW THE RE-EMPLOYMENT RULES

Whether you're newly retired or have been receiving a pension for a while, here's a few key things you need to know if you're thinking about going back to work.

**1 There's a limit.** You can work up to 50 days in a school year without affecting your pension. If you reach your limit, you can work until the end of the month in which you exceed the limit. If you continue to work after the month in which you exceed the limit, your pension will be suspended.

**2 It's not just teaching that counts.** Any service you provide to an employer who participates in the pension plan, for which you are entitled to get paid for, is considered re-employment. If your retirement pension began on or before Sept. 1, 2010, and you work in a non-teaching capacity at the Ministry of Education, a recent plan amendment affects you. Contact us to learn more.

**3 You need to keep track.** You're responsible for keeping track of your days and informing us if you exceed the limit. To make it easier for you, download Worklog, our app that allows you to track your re-employment. The app will alert you when you're close to the limit and remind you to stop working to avoid a pension suspension.

**Contact us directly if you're unsure if the re-employment rules apply to you.**

## DIGITAL BRIEFS

Keep up-to-date with plan news, as it happens.



Subscribe in your secure Ontario Teachers' account.



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@OTPPinfo  
(#myOTPP)



/OTPPinfo



/myOTPP

STICK A PIN IN IT

### We're now on Pinterest!

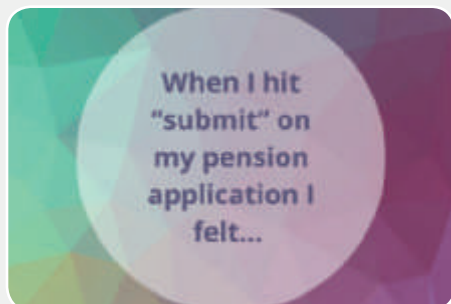
**Pinterest puts you in the driver seat.** As you explore [www.pinterest.com/myOTPP](http://www.pinterest.com/myOTPP), you'll find pins that are helpful or that resonate with you about life as a teacher or a retiree. By re-pinning these to your own boards, you'll build a personal library of what you want to read (or watch).



and keep up with Marion as she prepares to retire. Be sure to share your tips and words of encouragement with her.

## Top Facebook Posts

Our Facebook community at [www.facebook.com/myOTPP](http://www.facebook.com/myOTPP) is 10,000+ strong. Here are some of your favourite recent posts in which we started a sentence and asked you to finish it. Check out our Member Voices Pinterest board for more of these types of posts.

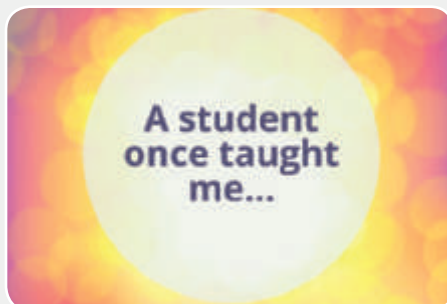


**Rachelle:** Like I was beginning my new life! Also I felt especially scared and thrilled at the same time!

**Debra:** Delighted because I knew that, after 40 years, it was the RIGHT time for me!

**Shirley:** Scared and excited as this is a whole new lifestyle and one I am ready to begin.

**Nadia:** It was empowering and deserving of a great career completed.



**Susan:** That the little things we can do make a big difference.

**Carol:** That on occasion they were much smarter than I.

**Danni:** Not to swear in French under my breath.

**Edward:** To finish my sentence with a breath of humour.



**Susan:** Stopped saving. Started spending.

**Jeff:** Started marshalling at a golf course so I could golf for free.

**Toula:** My husband and I now share one car. I spend less money on clothes now, but we spend more money on travelling. My focus is not on material possessions but on taking care of myself and on experiences.

# NEWS BRIEFS



## We've got a new look!

We've got a new look and an updated brand, but our commitment to you remains.

Our mission is still to deliver outstanding service and retirement security to you – today and tomorrow.

Our decision to reinvigorate our logo was driven by many factors – the most compelling was the need to stand out in an increasingly crowded and competitive global marketplace. We pioneered an investment model, and as a result we've inspired imitators.

Our investment strategy is crucial to keeping our pension promise. Since 1990 investment returns represent nearly 80% of our pension funding sources.

The new logo is a modern, progressive approach to a trusted symbol. It connects us to our history, while presenting Ontario Teachers' in a way that is fresh and distinctive. It conveys energy and innovation.

To learn more, visit [www.otpp.com/introducing-ontario-teachers](http://www.otpp.com/introducing-ontario-teachers).

## We've expanded our London office

We began with two direct investments in 2007 and now are direct investors in some 30 companies in the UK and Europe. Investments in the European, Middle Eastern and African (EMEA) markets at the end of 2014 totalled about \$22 billion. The expansion of our London office reflects our continued interest in and commitment to the EMEA region.

## 2016 PENSION DEPOSIT DATES

**Your pension is deposited on the last business date of each month.**

January 29	July 29
February 29	August 31
March 31	September 30
April 29	October 31
May 31	November 30
June 30	December 30

*Pension News* is published for members of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.

We appreciate your comments about anything you read in *Pension News*.

Please email: [member\\_communications@otpp.com](mailto:member_communications@otpp.com)

This newsletter does not create any right to benefits. Your entitlements and those of your survivors are and will be governed by the language of the pension plan text. The information contained in this newsletter is not intended to be relied upon in relation to any particular circumstance.

Ce bulletin est disponible également en français.

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## REMINDER!

Make sure your contact information is up to date.

Sign in to your secure Ontario Teachers' account and review your mailing and email address. Be sure to update your email to your personal account if you have your school board address listed.

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan  
5650 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M2M 4H5

PM# 40062973