

# PENSIONWISE

A PUBLICATION FOR ONTARIO TEACHERS

WINTER 2018



## GEARING UP FOR YOUR MOMENT

Check out your  
**PLAYBOOK**  
for retirement

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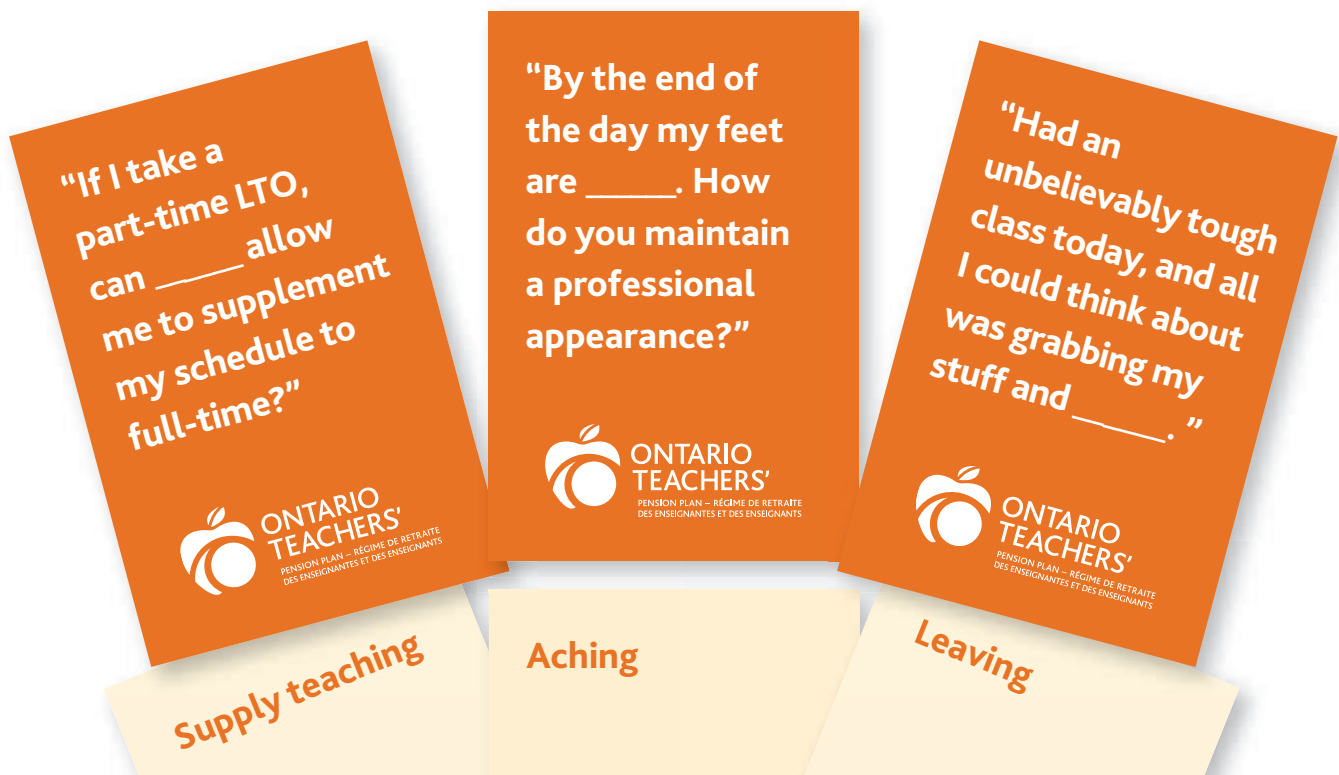
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# FILLING IN YOUR BLANKS

**Are you starting your career as a supply teacher? You're not alone.**

**Roughly 1-in-5 of our members under the age of 30 are occasional teachers.**

We've been listening to new teachers, just like you. We know you're hustling from job to job and navigating new schools. We're not top of mind right now, but we've got some tips and tricks that may just prove to be aces up your sleeve as you begin your career.



Whether it's day-to-day supply teaching, an LTO or a combination of the two, you get pension credit for any time you spend working for an employer who participates in our plan.

You'll probably take on some unexpected jobs in these first years, whether it's teaching gym class or racing from school to school. You may even end up teaching for more than one school board. We can't tell you which footwear is best, but we do know you'll keep building pension credit, no matter which board you work for. Even some independent schools participate in the plan.

Even when the kids push you to your limit, know that you build credit in the plan for any time you spent teaching for an employer who participates in the plan. Dust yourself off and move on. You've got this.

## WANT MORE TIPS?

Head over to [www.otpp.com/welcome](http://www.otpp.com/welcome)

# LEAVING THE PLAN

Sometimes we have a change in plans and we end up taking a different course than the one we initially set out on.

Maybe teaching isn't what you expected. Maybe you're considering moving to a different province. Or maybe a different career sparked your interest.



We hosted a Facebook Live broadcast to give you the lowdown on what you need to know if you're thinking about leaving the plan. Here are the answers to your FAQs:

**QUESTION:** What happens to my pension if I want to leave teaching in Ontario to teach in another province?

**ANSWER:** First, ask yourself if you think this move will be permanent. If yes, we have transfer agreements with teachers' plans in other provinces. Most teachers in this situation can transfer their credit into their new employer's plan.

If you think you'll likely return to Ontario and resume teaching here, you may wish to leave your credit in the plan. When you return, consider transferring any credit you earned while away into the plan.

**QUESTION:** If I leave teaching long before I'm ready to retire, when can I collect my pension?

**ANSWER:** If you stop working in education before you're eligible to collect a pension, you have three options:

1. leave your benefits in the plan to collect as a pension when you reach retirement age. You can collect a pension as early as age 50.
2. transfer the commuted value of your pension to another retirement savings arrangement; or
3. transfer your pension credit to another pension plan with which we have a transfer agreement.

**QUESTION:** If I leave teaching early, can I transfer my pension to my spouse who is also a teacher?

**ANSWER:** Your credit and contributions are based on your employment in education and can't be transferred to another person.

**QUESTION:** If I quit, should I take my pension's commuted value or leave it in the plan?

**ANSWER:** That depends on your personal situation. If you choose to take the commuted value, you'll have to put it into a locked-in retirement savings arrangement. If you leave it in the plan, you can collect a reduced pension as early as 50.



Watch the Facebook Live broadcast at  
[www.facebook.com/myOTPP](https://www.facebook.com/myOTPP)



# GEARING UP FOR YOUR MOMENT

**You've worked your entire career for this moment, and just like any championship, you'll need to prepare for retirement.**

You want to make sure you're warmed up and in great shape before the main event.

Every year we see about 3,000 teachers retire in June. If you're planning on being one of them, then **the earliest you can apply for your July pension is in March.**

Whether you're one month or a few years away, think of this time leading up to hitting "submit" on your pension application as your pre-season.

Get more pension application tips at  
**[www.otpp.com/yourmoment](http://www.otpp.com/yourmoment)**



## THE WARM-UP

Over the course of a season, players get hurt, traded and sent up and down to the minor leagues. Throughout your career we're betting you experienced a few shake-ups along the way too. Maybe you got married, divorced, had a baby or your spouse died?

### Upload your documents

It's important that your profile in your Ontario Teachers' online account is up-to-date to reflect any of these changes in your life.

Visit your Document Centre and check to see what you may need to add to your profile, so that we can pay your pension.

Upload your documents directly to the Document Centre anytime.

### Update your email address and personal info

Take a look at your profile under Your Pension in your online account.

Do we have your current personal email address on file? You won't have access to your school board email account after you retire. Is your mailing address and phone number up-to-date? Has there been a change in your marital status? You can update these at any point during your career.

### Pay for eligible leaves

Check to see if you have any eligible leaves from the past five years. Sign in to your online account and visit the Buyback Centre to see if there is a leave you can pay for, and the impact it'll have on your retirement. You'll maximize the value of your pension by paying for them.



## Understand how CPP works with your pension

You're probably wondering when you should start collecting from the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). Everyone's situation is unique, and you should consult a professional financial advisor to help you with that decision.

We provide a bridge benefit, which is intended to supplement your retirement income until age 65 when you're eligible for an unreduced CPP pension. You'll receive this bridge benefit regardless of when you collect CPP. The month after you turn 65, or immediately if you start a CPP disability pension, the bridge benefit ends and your pension is adjusted.

Old Age Security has no impact on your Ontario Teachers' pension.

## TAKING CARE OF YOUR LOVED ONES

Your loved ones are your biggest supporters and have cheered you on throughout your teaching career.

When you apply for your pension, you'll be asked to confirm a survivor pension level.

Almost half of retirees opt for the default 60% survivor pension level, and more than a third choose to lower it to 50%. If you choose to lower your survivor pension to 50%, we'll need a waiver form signed by your spouse before you retire.

Your pension will be reduced slightly to provide for a survivor pension higher than 50%. Once you apply for your pension, if you selected 60% or higher, the reduction to your pension is permanent, even if your spouse dies before you.

Consider the 10-year pension guarantee option. If you die before collecting 10 years' worth of pension payments, this

option provides 100% of your CPP-adjusted pension to your eligible spouse for the balance of the 10 years at a minimal cost.

## GAME TIME

The surge of excitement that comes as you approach that monumental moment won't pay your bills.

### Have a cheque handy

To set up the direct deposit for your pension, have your financial institution's information and your bank account number handy when you apply. You can find all of the information we'll need on a cheque.

### Resignations

You can apply for your pension before you resign. Don't be worried about us informing your employer of your resignation. Unless you're receiving long-term income protection benefits, or currently on a leave, we won't contact your employer.

To ensure you don't lose any pension payments, make sure you give your employer a resignation letter before your resignation date. The resignation date on your pension application must be the same date you include in your resignation letter.

### Apply for your pension

When you're ready, don't forget to hit "submit" when you apply for your pension. You can work through the pension application at your own pace, but we won't start processing your application until the final buzzer sounds when you hit "submit."

## POSTSEASON

Capturing the ultimate prize is one thing, but you want to enjoy your post-career too.

### Supplementary medical coverage

While we don't offer health and dental coverage, some employers extend health coverage to pensioners. If your employer doesn't, or you wish to shop around, there are three independent organizations who also extend this type of coverage. They're ARM Retiree Health Insurance Plan (<https://arm.otip.com/Health-Insurance>), The Retired Teachers of Ontario (<https://www.rto-ero.org/>), and Ontario Teachers' Insurance Plan (<https://www.otip.com/>). Contact them directly for details and to arrange for coverage.

### Re-employment rules

If you're thinking about returning for a victory lap as a supply teacher, know the re-employment rules.

You can teach until the end of the month in which you exceed your 50-day limit without affecting your pension. So, if you hit your 50th day of re-employment on January 31, and you worked on February 1, you could work until the end of February.

If you decide to keep working after February, let us know. We'll suspend your pension until either you stop working, or when the next school year starts.

### Stay social

Consider the social implications of retirement. Keep in touch with us and your colleagues through Facebook, follow us on Pinterest and subscribe to YouTube. You'll be able to connect with colleagues and get tips from fellow retirees on adjusting to retirement.



# WHAT'S THE SCOOP ON YOUR LEAVE?

**Did your leave end in 2017?** Let us know by April 30 if you plan to pay for it or not. Check your email inbox for a message from us or sign in to your Ontario Teachers' online account to tell us if you intend to pay.

Wondering how time you took away from the classroom might affect your retirement?

If you're like a typical teacher, paying for a \$10,000 leave could increase your pension by about \$1,880 each year.

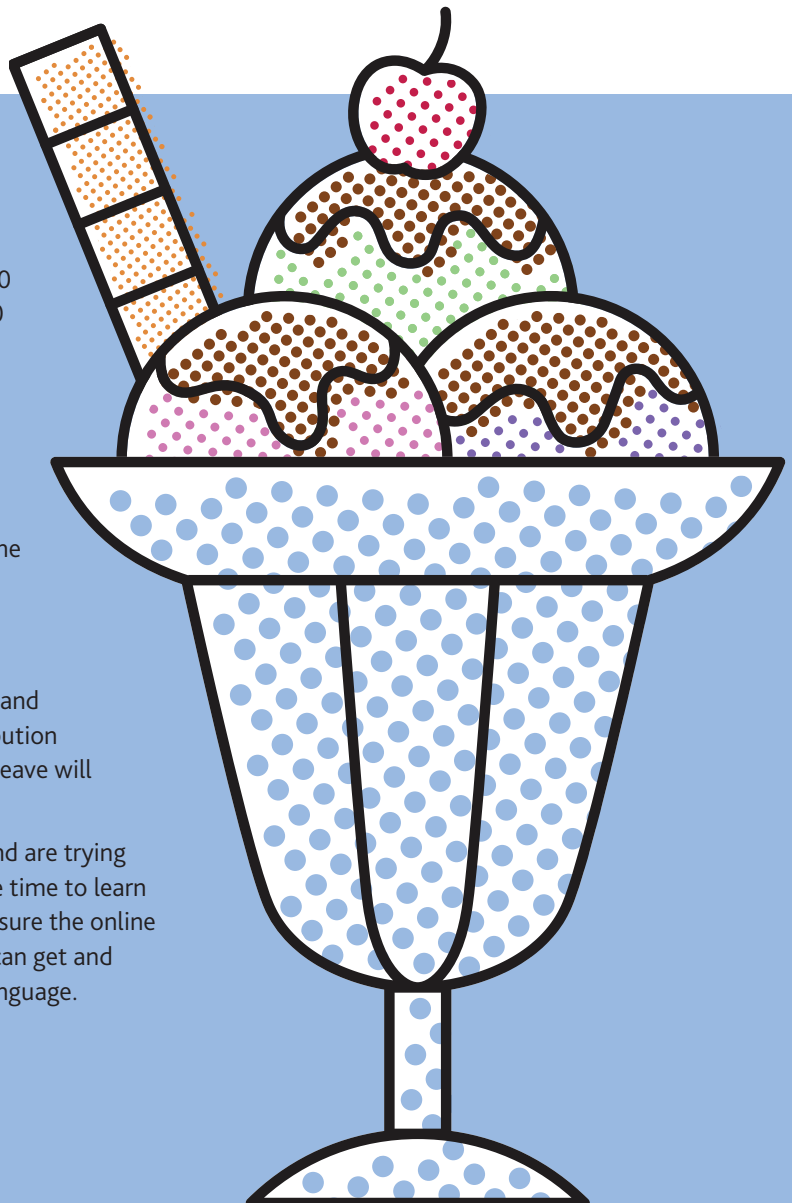
Most of our retired members collect a pension for around 30 years, so paying for that leave today could mean you'll get as much as \$56,000 more throughout your retirement.

We know there are a lot of factors that play into the decision to pay or not pay for a leave.

We designed 'What's the scoop on your leave?' to give you a quick lowdown that'll help you to make an informed decision. You'll learn about your cost and payment options, the impact to your RRSP contribution room, important deadlines, and, of course, how a leave will affect your retirement.

Chances are you're juggling a little one at home and are trying to get back into the groove of working. Finding the time to learn about your pension can seem daunting. We made sure the online experience is as close to fun as financial planning can get and the information is served up in bite-size, playful language.

When you have five minutes, head over to [www.otpp.com/m/thescoop](http://www.otpp.com/m/thescoop) to take a bite out of paying for your leave.





# DIGITAL BRIEFS

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



Subscribe in your online Ontario Teachers' account



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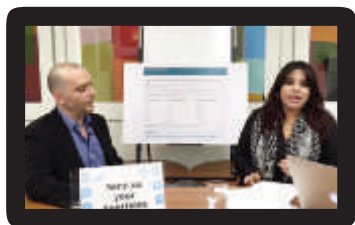
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## Getting set to retire?

We hosted a Facebook Live broadcast on the topic and answered your questions about what you need to do to get ready.



Watch the broadcast at [www.facebook.com/myOTPP](https://www.facebook.com/myOTPP), under the Videos tab. You'll also be able to read more than 30 questions we answered in the comment thread.

Then head over to [www.pinterest.com/myOTPP](https://www.pinterest.com/myOTPP) to check out the **myOTPP 101 – Preparing to Retire** board. It has all the resources you'll need in one spot to help you research your retirement.

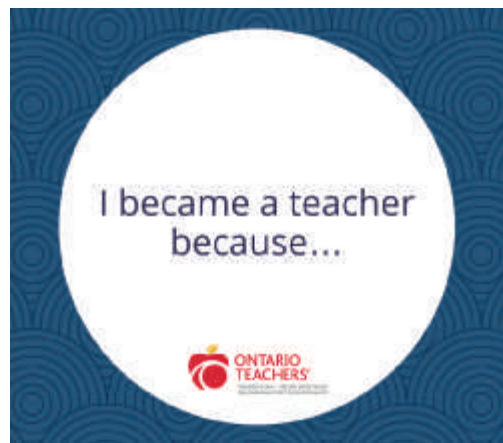


Once you've decided to get really serious about applying for your pension, bookmark [www.otpp.com/yourmoment](https://www.otpp.com/yourmoment). Check out the story on page 4 to learn about this handy step-by-step guide to get you across the retirement finish line.



## Need some inspiration?

Winter can be a bit of a slog, so we asked our Facebook community to boost our spirits by finishing a sentence.



*It was the path that was within me from my beginning.*

— BONNIE

*I was inspired by my high school teachers! I loved challenging my students to think rather than accept what they had been taught to believe!*

— MAC

*It was a vocation that ran in my veins and occupied my heart...and was to be.*

— DONNA

*I love watching children's faces light up when they realize they can be successful.*

— ANNE

## NEWS BRIEFS

# SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual meeting will be on

**Thursday,  
April 12, 2018.**

**4:45 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

**The Carlu, downtown Toronto**

**RSVP BY APRIL 10 AT  
[WWW.OTPP.COM/ANNUALMEETING](http://WWW.OTPP.COM/ANNUALMEETING)**

### Canadian lift-off for Lyft

We've participated in the most recent round of funding for ride-sharing platform Lyft.

This financing will bring Lyft's post-money valuation to \$11.5 billion.

The news came as Lyft made its international debut in Toronto, its first international market. Over the past year the company has more than doubled the number of rides given in 2016.

### Cheers!

In 2016 we acquired Canada's largest wine business from Constellation. In 2017, we rebranded as Arterra. Learn more about the producer of Inniskillin and Jackson-Triggs at [www.arterracanada.com](http://www.arterracanada.com).

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

We appreciate your comments about anything you read in *Pensionwise*.

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

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Ce bulletin est disponible également en français.

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

#### Client Services

Telephone: 416.226.2700  
or 1.800.668.0105

Fax: 416.730.7807  
or 1.800.949.8208

Email: [inquiry@otpp.com](mailto:inquiry@otpp.com)  
Website: [www.otpp.com](http://www.otpp.com)



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