

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March 11-12, 2024
Victoria, British Columbia

The Meeting Highlights is a summary of issues that were considered, or decisions that were made, by the Public Service Pension Board of Trustees [board] at its latest meeting.

** Please note that the official Board Minutes record the business conducted by the Public Service Pension Board of Trustees and their decisions. If there are any discrepancies between the Meeting Highlights and the official Board Minutes, the official Board Minutes shall govern. Disclosure of any documents referred to in the Meeting Highlights or the official Board Minutes is subject to applicable Board policy and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Pension Board Matters

The board received updates from the Board Chair, the Executive Director and the Director of Board Operations on activities for the quarter.

Harpinder Sandhu was reappointed as a member of the board for a three-year term ending March 31, 2027. Short biographies of trustees are available on the [plan website](#).

The board approved the trust fund expenditure of up to \$1,513,585 for board expenses, Pension Board Secretariat operating costs, consulting and other costs for the year April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

New Employer

The board approved the application of the Indigenous Child & Family Services Director Our Children Our Way Society to join the plan.

2025 Meeting Dates

The board approved its 2025 meeting dates:

- February 10-11, 2025 (strategic planning)
- March 10-11, 2025
- June 9-10, 2025
- September 4-5, 2025
- December 8-9, 2025

Reports from Service Providers

Administration services are provided by the BC Pension Corporation (Pension Corporation) and investment management services are provided by the BC Investment Management Corporation (BCI). The post-retirement group benefits plans are provided by Green Shield Canada (GSC); health and dental consultation services are provided by Willis Towers Watson (WTW); actuarial services are provided by Eckler Ltd.

A. Plan Administration – Report from the BC Pension Corporation

The board approved the services cost allocation of \$21,610,000 for the administration of the Public Service Pension Plan for the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 plus up to a one per cent variance tolerance of \$216,000 and net GST of \$720,000 for a total of \$22,546,000.

B. Plan Investment – Report from BCI

The board received the quarterly performance report, reviewed the Q4 2023 fee statement and received an investment strategy and risk update.

Assets under management (AUM) at December 31, 2023, of \$43.3 billion. The one-year rate of return was 6.1 % compared to the benchmark of 11.4% and the return objective of 6.0%. The five-year rate of return was 8.0% compared to the benchmark of 7.8% and the return objective over the five years of 6.1%.

The board approved investment management fees of up to \$219.1 million (49.7 basis points), excluding external indirect costs, for the Public Service Pension Plan for the period April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

C. Post-Retirement Group Health and Dental

In the quarter, the board received an update from the post-retirement group benefits carrier on health and dental claims, call insights and service standards.

D. Actuarial Services

The board's valuation report for March 31, 2023, was filed with the regulator and is published on the plan website: <https://pspp.pensionsbc.ca/valuation-report>.

The board approved changes to its Funding Policy, which is available on the plan website: <https://pspp.pensionsbc.ca/governance-documents>

Committee Reports

The Board has four standing committees: Benefits, Communications, Governance, and Responsible Investment.

A. Benefits Committee

The board approved a plan design change to align judges' non-judicial accrual and reduction rates with the recent plan design changes made for regular members, in response to recommendation from the 2022 Judicial Compensation Commission Report.

The board approved revisions to the post-retirement group benefits booklet and approved the expansion of the post-retirement group benefits coverage to extend to medications for the treatment of opioid addictions.

B. Communications Committee

The board approved changes to its communications policy, which is available on the plan website: <https://pspp.pensionsbc.ca/board-policies>

C. Governance Committee

The board updated its reimbursement policy. Many of the board's [operational policies](#) are available to view on the plan website.

D. Responsible Investment Committee

The board received an update on the committee's work to support the board in its pursuit of continuous improvement of its approach to overseeing BCI's responsible investing activities.

Additional information on the board's approach to responsible investing can be found on the plan website: <https://pspp.pensionsbc.ca/responsible-investing>.

Information on BCI's ESG approach and responsible investing is available on the BCI website at <https://www.bci.ca/approach/esg/>.

Interplan Committees

The Public Service Pension Plan trustees represent the Board on the Interplan Audit Committee and Interplan Trustee Education Committee with the other three BC public sector pension plan boards (Public Service, Municipal, and Teachers' Pension Boards of Trustees), and represent the Board on the Interplan Investment Committee in collaboration with trustees representing the College and Public Service Pension Boards.

A. Interplan Audit Committee

The board received a report from the Interplan Audit Committee for the quarter.

B. Interplan Investment Committee

The Interplan Investment Committee received an education session on leverage, updates from investment strategy and risk and from public markets and securities lending.

C. Interplan Trustee Education Committee

The board received an update on planning for the 2024 BC Public Sector Pension Conference and approved revisions to the committee's mandate.

Committee Membership

The board ratified the appointment of Diane Lianga by the College Pension Board of Trustees to the Interplan Audit Committee.

The board completed the following committee appointments and nomination:

- Frank Cholette and Sadaf Mirza to the Interplan Investment Committee
- Doug Dykens to the Interplan Trustee Education Committee
- Johanna Morrow to the Interplan Audit Committee
- Angie Sorrell to the Communications Committee
- Wanda Boden and Angie Sorrell to the Governance Committee
- Johanna Morrow to the Responsible Investment Committee

Website

The [Public Service Pension Plan website](#) contains valuable information about the Plan. You can find many of the Board's governance documents and operational policies on the website under [About us > Who we are > Public Service Pension Plan](#). The web content is updated regularly. New additions for the quarter include:

- Meeting Highlights - <https://pspp.pensionsbc.ca/board-meeting-highlights>
- Winter Pension Life - <https://pspp.pensionsbc.ca/pension-life>
- An update from GreenShield Canada - <https://pspp.pensionsbc.ca/>

Future Board Meetings

The next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Public Service Pension Board of Trustees will take place on June 5 and 6, 2024 in Victoria.

**Please direct any questions or comments about this document to:
Public Service Pension Board of Trustees**

By phone 250 387-8200
By fax 250 387-4199
By email pspbt@pensionsbc.ca

For general questions about the Public Service Pension Plan, or about your pension, please contact the **BC Pension Corporation**:

By phone Victoria: 250 953-3033
Toll-free in Canada and the U.S.: 1 800 665-3554
By fax 250 953-0425