

New case studies show the faces behind the numbers

The CPPLC recently commissioned research on the economic benefits of Canada's public sector pension plans. The study provides valuable insights on the scale and breadth of downstream benefits in terms of jobs, households and businesses supported. But just who are these workers, households and businesses? To get a better understanding of how public sector pension plans benefit individuals and communities, we spoke to members and employers to hear their stories.

[See all the case studies here](#)

Meet the People that Pensions Support

Contributing During a Career

With 3.41 million active members spread across Canada, pensions are part of what attracts talented people to the important roles in public service.

Catherine Araos has worked as a registered nurse for 10 years in Regina, Saskatchewan caring for people with late-stage kidney conditions. She is dedicated to her career, and the promise of a stable, secure retirement has kept her motivated and fully committed to her role.



A Major Plus for Employers

For employers, a larger, consolidated pension plan designed to meet employee needs is a major plus. In her role as Municipal Treasurer, **Elana Wentzell** inherited a municipal pension plan that had become a

liability for the Regional Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. Since joining a provincial plan that provided consolidated pension management and professional investment, it has provided peace of mind to employer and employee alike.

Enjoying Retirement

In 2019, Canada's public sector pension plans paid \$49 billion in retirement income. Retired public servants live in communities across Canada and play active roles at the heart of those communities. **Sheila Wyse** worked in Williams Lake, BC as a teacher and spends her retirement meeting friends at local coffee shops and volunteering in local community groups, including teaching seniors how to use technology.

Local Impacts

These stories provide perspective on the role public sector pension plans play in attracting and retaining dedicated and skilled professionals, and the value pensioners bring as active members of their communities.

Meet our CPPLC Council Co-chair – Alison McKay

Alison McKay leads a team of professionals who administer the Saskatchewan Healthcare Employees' Pension Plan (SHEPP). SHEPP is the largest defined benefit pension plan in Saskatchewan, providing retirement income security for the province's healthcare workers. Alison was appointed CEO in 2014, following six years with the organisation in various senior leadership roles. A University of Regina graduate and Chartered Professional Accountant, Alison held various pension administration and financial management roles prior to joining SHEPP.



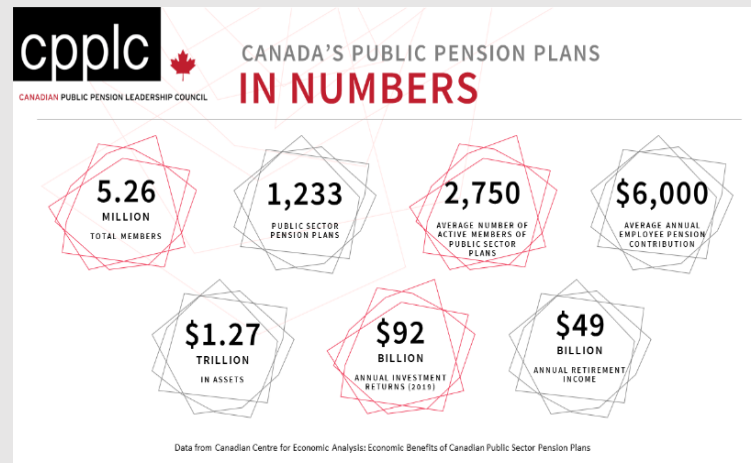
When asked why she decided to become co-chair, Alison commented that:

“Collaborative leadership is instrumental in creating meaningful discussion about public sector pension policy and retirement income security. I’m eager to be a part of the conversation and support research initiatives that expand knowledge in our industry.”

Have you read the *Economic Benefits of Canadian Public Sector Pension Plans*?

The Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA) conducted a study that highlights the unique value of Canada's public sector pension plans. The report reveals that every community in Canada is positively impacted by public sector pension plan activity. The downstream benefits of pensions reach both rural and urban locales, through the work of active members and their employers, retired members' pension-related spending, or through the local investment activities that pension plans perform on behalf of their members.

[Read the report](#)



What's next?

Join us at the [National Public Sector Pensions Conference](#), May 31-June 3, where we'll be talking about the value of research conducted by public sector pension plans.

The CPPLC commissions research on an on-going basis. Keep an eye on our website for updates!

Join us!

Are you a public pension leader who wants to build relationships with other pension leaders? [Check out the About page on our website](#). We are always interested in your feedback about our communications. [Get in touch](#) if you have any comments about this newsletter. We are keen to improve it to suit the needs of our readers.