

Options

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OPTrust becomes a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment

In May 2010, OPTrust became a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). The PRI is an investor initiative in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative and the UN Global Compact with more than 700 signatories worldwide representing US \$20 trillion in invested assets.

At OPTrust, we recognize that environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues have the potential to affect the performance of the Plan's investment portfolios. Taking steps to address these issues in our investment operations is not

just the right thing to do – it's also good business. Signing the PRI is consistent with and in support of OPTrust's Statement of Responsible Investing Principles (SRIP) which was adopted in March 2009.

"We are delighted that OPTrust has signed the PRI," states James Gifford, Executive Director, PRI. "This continues the strong momentum within responsible investment post crisis.

> *OPTrust becomes signatory...* continued on page 3

Inside: 2009 Annual Highlights



Want to know how your pension plan is addressing the funding impact of our 2008 investment loss? Interested in how OPTrust is building security for the long term? Looking for the latest on OPTrust's investment performance?

Just turn to the special pullout section inside this newsletter to read the 2009 *Annual Highlights Report for Members*. There you'll find key statistics on the financial performance of the OPSEU Pension Plan and news on how we serve you and our 82,000 other members and retirees.



< **Kerry McKeown**,
OPTrust Member,
Ministry of Community
Safety and Correctional
Services

GREEN INITIATIVE:

OPTrust joins the Carbon Disclosure Project

In 2010, as part of OPTrust's continuing commitment to responsible investing and to managing the long-term financial risks associated with environmental, social and governance issues, we signed onto the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).

The CDP conducts an annual survey, requesting thousands of the world's largest companies to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions and climate change strategies on behalf of the world's leading asset owners and investment firms. This data provides valuable insight to investors like OPTrust who use it to evaluate investment risks and opportunities related to climate change.

There is a growing awareness among large investors that climate change has the potential to impact the long-term financial performance of companies and even the efficient functioning of global markets. Indeed, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that "future

climate impacts show that the consequences could vary from disruptive to catastrophic".

By collecting and presenting the carbon emissions strategies of companies along with emissions data, the CDP provides investors with a clear understanding of how companies are positioned as we move towards a low carbon economy.

Signing the CDP is consistent with OPTrust's Statement of Responsible Investing Principles and is an example of our commitment to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing.

OPTrust joins over 500 institutional investors with a combined \$64 trillion in assets under management who believe that a first step in managing investment risk related to carbon emissions is transparency from the companies in which we invest.

By signing onto the CDP, OPTrust obtains exclusive access to CDP

responses through a dedicated database and reports that will assist us in our ongoing initiatives to integrate ESG considerations into investment decision making processes and in our potential engagement activities.

OPTrust will continue to keep you informed of other areas where we have an impact on environmental, social and governance issues. In the mean time, you can learn more about OPTrust's governance program on our website or in the full annual report.



Casual employment and insured benefits

Insured benefits coverage in retirement is one of the key advantages to your membership in the Plan. As an OPTrust member, you qualify for insured benefits if:

- you are receiving a pension based on at least 10 years of credit in the OPSEU Pension Plan or the Public Service Pension Plan (PSPP), or
- you are receiving a pension based on at least 10 years of continuous employment and have some credit in the OPSEU Pension Plan for at least some part of each of those 10 years.

Like full-time employees, eligibility for insured benefits is based on the same criteria for members who are in a part-time, contract or casual position.

Your insured benefits coverage includes: dental, supplementary health and hospital, and basic life insurance. Insured benefits are provided by the Government of Ontario and administered by Great-West Life, not OPTrust.

“Signing the PRI represents an important step in OPTrust’s continuing commitment to integrating environmental, social and corporate governance considerations into its investment activities,” says Morgan Eastman, Chief Investment Officer of OPTrust.

“This commitment is based on the recognition that ESG issues have the potential to affect the performance of OPTrust’s investment portfolios over the long term. Taking appropriate steps to address potential risks in these areas is therefore consistent with OPTrust’s fiduciary duty to plan members, retirees and sponsors,” adds Eastman.

OPTrust’s participation will add greatly to the PRI’s Canadian activities and it has a lot to offer in terms of integration of ESG issues and active ownership within mainstream pension management.”

Responsible investment

The UN Principles for Responsible Investment set out six broad objectives and identify a range of possible actions that signatories may take to incorporate ESG issues into their investment activities.

The principles provide a framework for extending OPTrust’s work in this area. Plans are already in progress to:

- strengthen OPTrust’s policies regarding environmental, social and governance concerns. This includes the recent adoption of a statement on responsible investment which will provide a point of reference for ongoing discussion with our external investment managers
- work with our investment managers to integrate ESG factors into their investment analyses and decisions and the criteria used to evaluate their performance
- review our proxy voting guidelines to ensure they address current and emerging issues, including responsible investment criteria
- identify further opportunities to work together with other investors and stakeholders on ESG issues
- expand our ESG program beyond our public market investments and identify opportunities to integrate ESG factors into decisions regarding OPTrust’s real estate, private equity and infrastructure portfolios.

As a signatory to the PRI, OPTrust has made a modest voluntary contribution to support the work of the PRI secretariat. In return, as a signatory, we gain access to resources we can use in developing and implementing OPTrust’s ESG program, and a global network of organizations with whom we can share information and work together on corporate governance and responsible investment issues. ○



Coming soon: Direct Contact presentation online

Missed an OPTrust Direct Contact session in your community? Soon you can view an interactive version on our website from the comfort of your home.

OPTrust has developed an online version of our popular Direct Contact pension information sessions to reach all members.

Got a question about the Plan and your personal situation? Not a problem. Simply log in to your secure *Online Services* account and send a message to OPTrust. Our Member and Pensioner Services staff will respond to you right away.

Of course, if you prefer meeting with our staff face-to-face, you can attend an upcoming session in your community. Turn to page 5 or visit our website at **www.optrust.com** for an up-to-date schedule. ○

Changes set for Ontario's *Pension Benefits Act*

In the fall 2009 issue of *OPTions*, we told you about both the federal and provincial governments' plans to reform Canada's pension system.

In May 2010, the Ontario government passed Bill 236, a pension reform bill with amendments to the *Pension Benefits Act* as part of a multi-step process for pension plans in Ontario. Bill 236 introduces several significant changes that may affect plan members.

Immediate vesting

Defined benefit plan members will be immediately vested instead of after two years of plan membership. Vesting is your right to receive an unreduced pension from OPTrust at age 65 or earlier if you qualify for one of the Plan's early retirement options.

Divestments

The bill also includes changes that will allow plan sponsors to provide an additional option to members who are affected by divestments. In some cases, plan members may be allowed to consolidate their pension benefits in their new pension plan following a divestment. Such transfers will require an agreement to be negotiated between the plan sponsors.

For pension purposes, a divestment occurs when one or more employees are transferred from their original employer to a successor employer that provides a different pension plan as a result of a transfer or sale of business.

Small benefit payments increased

For members who retire with a pension payable that is less than 2% of the Year's Maximum Pensionable

Earnings (\$47,200 in 2010) a lump sum payment can be made. Under Bill 236, the payable amount for a small pension will increase to 4%. This change is directly related to immediate vesting to avoid having to pay very small pensions when members work less than two years.

Notification of plan amendments

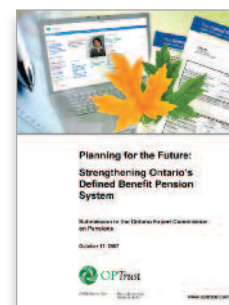
Currently, when there is an amendment to the Plan that adversely affects members benefits, the OPSEU Pension Plan is required to inform only the affected members prior to the amendment. With the new change, any amendment to the Plan will require advance notice to all members.

Bill 236 reflects a number of recommendations made by Ontario's Expert Commission on Pensions in 2008. Other changes include:

- a "grow-in" provision to allow eligible plan members who are laid off to eventually qualify for early retirement benefits
- the elimination of partial plan wind-ups
- a provision allowing pension plans to offer a phased retirement option.

The implementation of the changes to the *Pension Benefits Act* will come into effect at a future date. All changes to the OPSEU Pension Plan require full approval from both sponsors – OPSEU and the Government of Ontario. The final details of the amendments in Bill 236 and how they may affect OPTrust members will not be known until the necessary regulations are released. Check our website for updated information.

The government has announced plans to introduce further measures to address other recommendations of the Expert Commission later this year.



OPTrust made a number of recommendations to the legislative committee that reviewed changes to Ontario's *Pension Benefits Act*. To

read OPTrust's initial submission to the Expert Commission on Pensions visit our website at www.optrust.com. The full bill is available online at: www.ontla.on.ca.

2009 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS REPORT FOR MEMBERS



**SPECIAL
PULLOUT
SECTION**

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SECURE FUTURE

At the OPSEU Pension Trust (OPTrust), we are here to serve you. With invested assets of \$12 billion, we manage one of Canada's largest pension funds and administer the OPSEU Pension Plan, a defined benefit plan with more than 82,000 members and retirees.

Our mandate includes three key objectives:

- Generating the investment returns needed to support the Plan's pension promise
- Delivering the finest service and communications to our members and pensioners
- Ensuring that you have a real voice in your pension plan through joint trusteeship

2009 highlights

- OPTrust and our sponsors implemented a proactive strategy to manage the Plan's funding shortfall caused by investment losses in 2008.
- A gradual 3% increase in contribution rates was recommended by OPTrust and approved by the sponsors, reducing the Plan's funding deficit by \$1.2 billion while maintaining the value of members' future pensions.
- Strong investment returns in 2009 helped reduce the Plan's remaining deficit to \$393 million at year-end.



FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

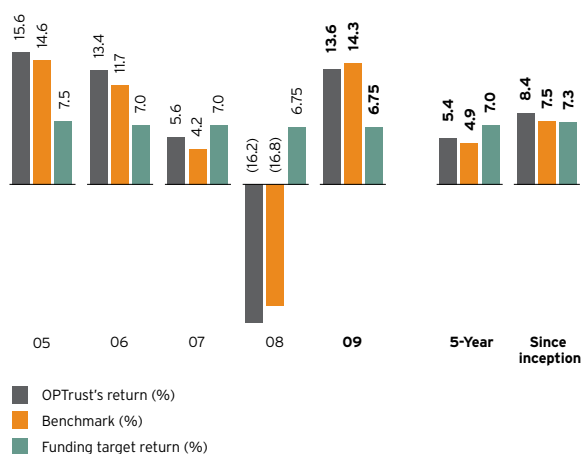
At December 31 (\$ millions)	AFTER CONTRIBUTION INCREASE		BEFORE CONTRIBUTION INCREASE
	2009 INTERIM VALUATION	2008 FILED VALUATION	2008
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 11,989	\$ 10,987	\$ 10,987
Actuarial smoothing adjustment	294	927	927
Actuarial value of net assets	12,283	11,914	11,914
Present value of future contributions	4,747	4,653	3,414
TOTAL ASSETS	17,030	16,567	15,328
CURRENT COST OF FUTURE PENSIONS	16,595	16,353	16,353
Rate stabilization funds	828	820	820
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(393)	(606)	(1,845)
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 435	\$ 214	\$ (1,025)

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

In 2009, OPTrust and our sponsors implemented a proactive strategy to manage the Plan's funding shortfall caused by investment losses in 2008. This strategy included capping the investment losses that were deferred, or "smoothed," for recognition in future years, and gradually raising members' and employers' contribution rates by 3% of salary, starting in 2010.

As a result, the Plan's 2008 funding valuation identified a deficit of \$606 million, which is being eliminated through payments from the Plan's rate stabilization funds. In 2009, strong investment returns helped reduce the deficit to \$393 million. Without the contribution increase, the deficit would have been \$1,845 million at December 31, 2008 and \$1,716 million at the end of 2009.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE



OPTrust's diversified portfolio achieved a 13.6% return for 2009, compared to 14.3% for our weighted benchmark and the Plan's 6.75% funding target return. OPTrust's average return of 8.4% since the Plan's launch in 1995 exceeds both our benchmark and the Plan's funding target for the same period.

FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

At December 31 (\$ millions)



Despite its \$606 million funding deficit, the Plan had a net surplus of \$214 million at the end of 2008, after accounting for rate stabilization funds of \$820 million. These funds were set aside by the sponsors from past funding gains and are now being used to pay down the deficit over a maximum of 15 years.

For more information on OPTrust's investment and financial results for 2009, please see our full annual report available at www.optrust.com.

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4 Investment strategy and performance

5 Funding the pension promise

6 Membership services

8 Members of the Board of Trustees

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved changes to the Plan's long-term asset mix to reduce investment risk while increasing OPTrust's ability to achieve our target return over time.
- Worked with OPTrust's sponsors to address the Plan's funding deficit and maintain the value of members' future pensions, while moderating the impact on contribution rates.
- Completed a strategic review of our investment program, enhancing both our governance practices and our ability to execute decisions in an increasingly challenging business environment.

Meeting challenges, building security

The past year was one of significant challenges and opportunities for the OPSEU Pension Plan, its sponsors and our 82,000 members and retirees.

Like other major pension funds, your plan experienced a substantial investment loss in the last quarter of 2008 due to the global financial crisis. In 2009, this meant that OPTrust faced two key tasks:

- addressing the funding impact of our 2008 investment loss, and
- positioning the Plan to continue achieving long-term investment growth in the future.

As we report in this special supplement, OPTrust has made important progress on both counts. As a result, you can continue to rely on the value and security of your OPTrust pension.

Investing for the future

In 2009, OPTrust undertook a major review of the Plan's diversification strategy. Based on our findings, the Board approved a number of adjustments to our long-term asset mix, which will be implemented over several years. These changes meet two objectives: reducing the Plan's overall investment risk and increasing our ability to meet the Plan's funding requirements over the long term.

In the meantime, the Plan benefited from a sharp rebound in public equity markets in 2009, and strong returns from our infrastructure and real return bond portfolios. As a result, OPTrust achieved an overall investment return of 13.6% for the year, more than double the Plan's 6.75% funding target. This strong performance contrasts with our 16.2% investment loss during the market downturn in 2008.

Over 2009, investment earnings helped increase the Plan's net assets to \$12 billion at year-end, up by \$1 billion from the end of 2008. Given the Plan's funding requirements, however, this one year of growth was not enough on its own to make up for our \$2.4 billion investment loss in 2008.

Deficit management

In 2009, an initial actuarial valuation identified a total funding shortfall of \$2.7 billion as of the end of 2008, including both the Plan's funding deficit and the "smoothed" investment

losses to be deferred for recognition over the following four years.

OPTrust has therefore worked with the Plan's sponsors – OPSEU and the Government of Ontario – to implement a proactive strategy for dealing with the Plan's funding deficit. The main elements of this strategy included:

- capping the investment losses that would be deferred for recognition over 2009-2012 at \$927 million
- filing the Plan's 2008 funding valuation with Ontario's pension regulator to allow the sponsors to start addressing the Plan's \$1.8 billion deficit as soon as possible
- reducing the deficit by \$1.2 billion by implementing a gradual 3% increase in contribution rates recommended by OPTrust and approved by the sponsors
- phasing in the contribution increase over three years starting in 2010, to moderate the impact on members' take-home pay and employers' payroll costs
- drawing on the Plan's rate stabilization funds to pay down the remaining \$606 million deficit over the next 15 years.

This prudent approach will allow OPTrust and our members and sponsors to meet the Plan's long-term funding needs while maintaining the value of members' future pension benefits.

Looking forward

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to our fellow Trustees and OPTrust's management and staff for their dedication to the interests of our 82,000 members and pensioners. We look forward to working with them and the Plan's sponsors as we continue to meet the pension promise in the coming year, and over the long term.



Tony Ross
Chair



Maurice Gabay
Vice-Chair



INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

- Investment gains helped increase the Plan's net assets to \$12 billion in 2009, up \$1 billion from the year before.
- OPTrust's diversified portfolio achieved a 13.6% return for 2009, more than double the Plan's 6.75% funding target return.
- OPTrust's Board approved a number of adjustments to the Plan's long-term asset mix, to be implemented over several years.

As an investment manager, OPTrust's goal is to generate the rate of return needed to provide you with a secure lifetime pension in your retirement. To meet this objective, the Fund needs to achieve our annual target return of 6.75% over the long term.

Diversification

Our 6.75% target is higher than the returns normally generated by low-risk investments, such as government and corporate bonds. So, OPTrust also invests in other asset classes, including public equity (stocks), real estate, infrastructure and private equity.

These investments typically offer the higher returns that OPTrust needs to meet the Plan's funding requirements. However, they involve more risk than fixed income investments and expose the Fund to increased volatility of our returns.

OPTrust's diversification strategy is designed to manage this risk. Our approach is to select an appropriate mix of asset classes and markets, and use a diversified range of investment strategies. The goal is to meet or exceed the Plan's target return over the long term, while reducing exposure to risks affecting particular markets or asset types.

Investment performance

Since OPTrust's launch in 1995, this strategy has served the Plan well. Over 15 years, the Fund has produced an average annual return of 8.4% compared to 7.5% for our weighted benchmark and our 7.3% target return for the same period.

Diversification also helped reduce the impact of the extreme market volatility over the past two years. In 2009, for example, a 7.1% loss in our real estate portfolio was more than offset by returns of 34.8% and 31.6% from our Canadian and foreign equities. These strong equity returns were a major factor in the Plan's 13.6% total fund return for the year.

This contrasts with the Plan's results for the previous year. In 2008, strong positive returns from OPTrust's real estate, infrastructure and fixed income investments helped limit the Plan's loss to 16.2% in a year when the global financial crisis saw major stock market indexes report losses of 30% to 40%.

Asset mix changes

Given the importance of our diversification strategy, OPTrust carried out a major asset/liability study in 2009. This study

tested the expected performance of a range of possible changes to the Plan's asset mix and compared them to the expected growth in our pension liabilities, under different economic scenarios.

The result was a series of adjustments to the Plan's long-term asset mix. Taken together, these changes are designed to increase the probability of meeting or exceeding our funding requirements over the long term, while reducing the Plan's overall level of investment risk.

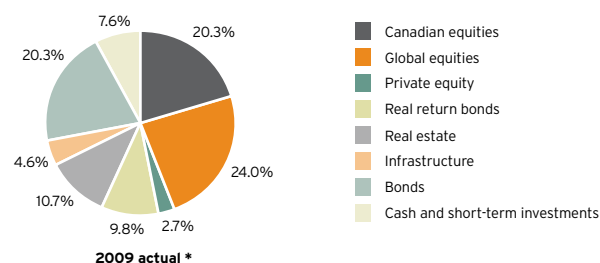
The adjustments include:

- continuing to reduce the Plan's exposure to volatile public equities, which will eventually make up 25% of the total fund
- increasing both our real estate and private equity allocations to 15% each
- continuing the implementation of our 15% target for infrastructure
- adding a 5% allocation to energy commodities
- maintaining a substantial 20% allocation to government and corporate bonds.

These changes, which continue the gradual evolution of our investment portfolio, will be implemented over the next several years.

2009 ASSET MIX

At December 31



In 2009, OPTrust continued to limit the Plan's exposure to volatile public equity markets, while maintaining a flexible approach to rebalancing the Fund. An increased allocation to cash and short-term investments is being used to fund further investments in real estate, infrastructure and private equity and a new energy commodity portfolio.

* Categories include temporary cash balances.

FUNDING THE PENSION PROMISE

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

- The phased contribution increase approved by the Plan's sponsors in 2009 reduced the 2008 funding deficit by \$1.2 billion.
- Strong investment returns further reduced the deficit to \$393 million at the end of 2009.
- Another \$294 million in "smoothed" investment losses will be recognized over the next four years.

OPTrust and the OPSEU Pension Plan exist to provide our members with a secure lifetime pension in their retirement years. OPTrust therefore follows a comprehensive funding policy to:

- project the long-term cost of members' pensions, and
- manage the Plan's assets and members' and employers' contributions to meet that pension obligation.

Shared risks and rewards

Since the Plan's launch in 1995, our funding strategy has delivered real value for OPTrust's membership and sponsors. Based on strong investment returns, the Plan has generated substantial funding gains that were shared equally between the Plan's membership and the Government of Ontario.

In their role as the Plan's sponsors, OPSEU and the Government of Ontario used these gains to eliminate the Plan's initial unfunded liability, pay for a number of permanent and temporary benefit improvements and reduce members' contribution rates between 2000 and 2004.

The sponsors also made the prudent decision to set part of these gains aside in separate "rate stabilization funds." Totalling \$828 million at the end of 2009, these funds can be used to reduce the impact of a deficit on members' and employers' contribution rates.

Deficit management

Despite this record of success, the Plan's 2008 investment loss left the Plan with a total funding shortfall of \$2.7 billion, including both the funding deficit and deferred investment losses.

Over the past year, OPTrust worked with the Plan's sponsors to implement a proactive strategy for managing the Plan's deficit. The result was a balanced approach that:

- capped the investment losses that were deferred for recognition between 2009 and 2012
- reduced the deficit by \$1.2 billion by phasing in a 3% contribution rate increase over three years
- draws on the Plan's rate stabilization funds to pay down the remaining deficit over 15 years, starting in 2009.

With the support of the Plan's sponsors, this prudent strategy met three key objectives:

- addressing the current deficit and the Plan's long-term funding requirements
- moderating the impact on members' and employers' contribution rates
- avoiding any reduction in members' future pension benefits.

Funding outlook

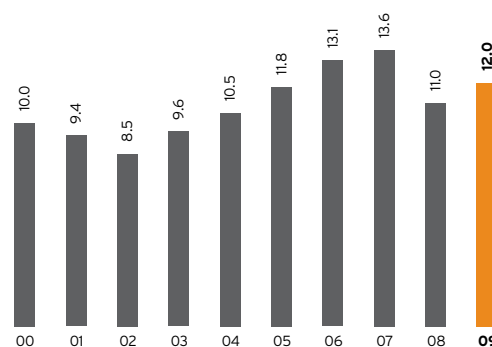
OPTrust's investment performance in 2009 helped reduce the Plan's funding deficit from \$606 million at December 31, 2008, to \$393 million at the end of 2009. The Plan's smoothed investment losses were also reduced to \$294 million at the end of 2009, down from \$927 million in 2008.

Assuming a modest recovery in the financial markets over the next four years, we expect that the Plan's rate stabilization funds should be enough to offset the balance of our unrecognized losses from 2008, without a further contribution increase.

In the meantime, as a member of the Plan, you can continue to count on the value of your OPTrust pension and the secure income it will provide in your retirement.

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

At December 31 (\$ billions)



The Plan's net assets rose to \$12 billion in 2009, up by \$1 billion from the year before. The increase resulted from investment income of \$1.3 billion for the year. This was partly offset by benefit payments and expenses that exceeded contributions by \$346 million.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

- OPTrust completed 85% of cases on time, even though one in five is delayed for reasons outside OPTrust's control.
- More than 2,300 new users signed up for our secure *Online Services* site, reflecting the growing demand for online services and electronic communications.
- During the year, we provided more than 25,000 targeted e-mails and printed notices to inform members and pensioners of important pension options.

At OPTrust our focus is to provide members and pensioners with high quality service and communications to help them make informed decisions. During 2009, OPTrust continued to deliver on its commitment to provide prompt, friendly and efficient service while responding to your changing needs.

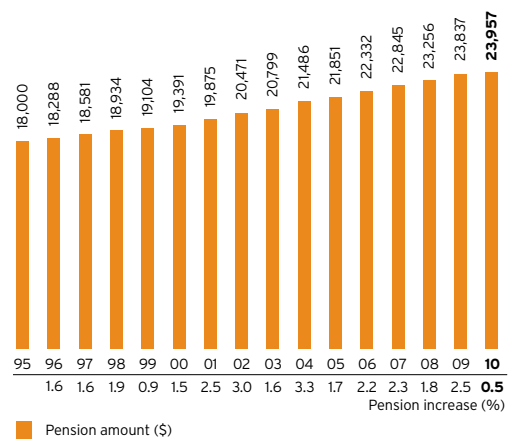


Service standards

Over the year, our staff processed 63,151 individual transactions – from enrolments, pension transfers and buybacks to pension estimates, terminations and retirements. During the year:

- we received almost 45,000 calls from our members and pensioners, answering 98% with an average response time of just 11 seconds
- the total number of secure *Online Services* registrations grew by 9% as members and pensioners increasingly go online for personalized information and pension transactions
- we met our service targets, reducing overdue cases to less than 15% of total transactions, while limiting cases overdue by more than 30 days to less than 5%.

INFLATION PROTECTION FOR PENSIONERS



OPTrust pensions are adjusted annually for inflation to protect retirees' purchasing power. In January 2010, payments to pensioners rose by 0.5%, reflecting changes in Canada's Consumer Price Index. A retired member who received a typical annual pension of \$18,000 in 1995 will receive \$23,957 in 2010 – an increase of 33% over 15 years.

Ibrahim Bozai, OPTrust Member, Ministry of the Attorney General

"Even though I'm a long way from retirement, my OPTrust pension matters to me. The work can be demanding, but I'd like to stay with the public service for the long term. I see the Plan as an important part of our overall compensation package. I think it's fair that working people can look forward to a secure pension at the end of their careers."

MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT

At December 31	2009	2008
Active members	47,316	47,850
Former members with entitlements in the Plan	1,278	1,782
Pensioners		
Current	24,758	23,686
Deferred	8,990	8,806
Total members and pensioners	82,342	82,124

OPTrust's active membership fell slightly to 47,316 at the end of 2009, down by 534 from 2008.

Proactive services

We delivered a range of proactive services to help you maximize your pension and build security over the long term. In 2009, OPTrust:

- sent e-mail and printed notices to more than 3,800 contract employees reminding them about their option to join the Plan, with almost 1,300 enrolling over the year
- provided buyback cost quotes to 1,500 new members
- sent reminders to another 3,400 members whose buyback application deadlines were about to expire and notified almost 2,000 members by telephone
- mailed pension estimates to over 9,000 members aged 55 or older
- hosted 65 pension seminars and information kiosks, reaching more than 3,000 members throughout Ontario
- sent 31,125 proactive e-mails to encourage members to sign up to receive their *Annual Pension Statements* online
- sent information about CPP integration and their OPTrust pensions to more than 1,200 retirees who were nearing their 65th birthdays.

Responding to your needs

OPTrust also responded to members' and retirees' increasing demand for online service and communications. Over the year our public website received almost 285,000 visits, up from 2008, while more than 2,300 new users signed up for our secure *Online Services* site.

Sandra Orr, OPTrust Retiree,
Ministry of Child and Youth Services

"While I was working, I was also planning ahead for my retirement. Knowing I would have a secure pension was a big part of that plan. Since I've retired, my pension has allowed me to focus on family issues without having to worry about money. Given how challenging the economy is, it's a relief to know I can count on my pension for the long term."

Meanwhile, OPTrust members and pensioners continued to give us high marks for the quality of service we provide. During 2009, OPTrust received more than 600 survey responses from individuals who completed a pension transaction, with an overall satisfaction rating of 8.5 out of 10, up slightly from 8.4 the previous year.

In 2010, we will continue providing quality services while exploring cost-effective options for meeting your changing needs.



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

at December 31, 2009

The OPSEU Pension Trust was established to give members and the Government of Ontario an equal voice in the OPSEU Pension Plan through joint trusteeship. As sponsors, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and the Government of Ontario each appoint five Trustees to the OPTrust Board. Together, the Trustees oversee all aspects of the Plan's operations in the interests of our more than 82,000 members and retirees.

Tony Ross, Chair*

Former Vice-Chair (retired)
Merrill Lynch Canada

Maurice Gabay, Vice-Chair**

Accountant
Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU)

Michael Beswick*

Senior Vice-President, Pensions (retired)
Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System

Scott Campbell*

Corporate Chief Information Officer (retired)
Government of Ontario

Alicia Czekierda**

Secretary, Robarts/Amethyst Schools
Ministry of Education

Richard Johnston*

Owner, By Chadsey's Cairns Winery and Vineyard
Former MPP and President, Centennial College

Ron Langer**

Senior Business Advisor
Ministry of Economic Development and Trade

Mahmood Nanji*

Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Economic Development and Trade

Maureen Whyte**

Claims Assessor
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

*Appointed by the Government of Ontario

**Appointed by OPSEU

HOW TO REACH US

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www.optrust.com | email@optrust.com

This report summarizes certain provisions of the OPSEU Pension Plan. Please note that this report does not create any rights to benefits not provided for in the actual terms of the Plan. In the event of any conflict or omission, the legal requirements of the OPSEU Pension Plan will govern in all cases.

Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français.

ISSN 1204-0458



OPSEU Pension Trust

Fiducie du régime de
retraite du SEPTO



GET THE BIG PICTURE

OPTrust's full annual report is available online at www.optrust.com. A list of OPTrust's significant investments is also available on the OPTrust website. To order a printed copy of the annual report, please contact us.

Direct Contact: We bring your pension plan to you



Want to know more about the OPSEU Pension Plan?

OPTrust Direct Contact sessions are a great way to learn more about your pension – directly from an OPTrust representative. Non-members who are eligible to join the Plan (e.g., unclassified, contract or casual employees) are also welcome to come and learn more about enrolling in the Plan.

Getting Ready to Retire – Evening Seminars

Our evening seminars are tailored for members who are within 10 years of retirement, but all members are welcome to attend.



Topics include:

- how your pension grows over your career
- how your pension is calculated and when can you retire
- what your options are if you leave your job
- what “CPP integration” means and how it affects you
- how to buy back credit for past service
- what other benefits are available, **and more...**

Understanding Your Pension – Lunch & Learn Seminars

OPTrust staff also offer shorter lunchtime seminars in workplaces across Ontario for members at any stage in their careers. Special sessions for unclassified/contract staff who may be interested in joining are also an option.

To book a lunchtime seminar for your workplace, you or your human resources representative can contact us at infosessions@optrust.com.

Register now!

See the schedule below for a session in your area and sign up online at www.optrust.com, or call us at **416-681-6100** or **1-800-637-0024**.

Important: Space is limited. Please register at least two weeks in advance. Direct Contact sessions are designed to give you an overview of the OPSEU Pension Plan. OPTrust staff cannot provide personal financial advice.



OPSEU Pension Trust Direct Contact Sessions Schedule

5:30 to 7:30 pm

DATE

CITY

LOCATION

September 22, 2010

Peterborough

Best Western Otonabee Inn – 84 Lansdowne Street East

October 14, 2010

Burlington

Hilton Garden Inn Toronto/Burlington – 985 Syscon Road

Future sessions will be scheduled for other communities across Ontario. To view a complete, up-to-date schedule and register online, visit the OPTrust website at www.optrust.com. ○

You asked...

Question: If I purchase service with the open option buyback, do I have to pay by lump sum?

Answer: No. For a buyback over \$500, you have the option to finance your purchase through payroll deductions, or a combination of a lump sum payment and payroll deductions.



Question: My 2009 *Annual Pension Statement* does not include my children as beneficiaries, how do I make a change?

Answer: You can add a new beneficiary or update your current information through OPTrust's secure *Online Services*. Alternatively, you can complete a *Pension Beneficiaries* form available online or from OPTrust.

Question: I qualify for Factor 90 in November 2010. Do I have to retire at that time?

Answer: No. Factor 90 is an early retirement option, which means you qualify for an immediate unreduced pension when your age plus credit in the Plan total at least 90 years. Once you qualify, you can retire at any time with an unreduced OPTrust pension. The Plan's normal retirement age is 65.

If you continue to work past the age of 65, you can contribute to the Plan and defer your pension. However, by the end of the year you reach the age of 71, the *Income Tax Act* requires that you stop making contributions to a registered pension plan. So, your membership in and contributions to the Plan must end at this time and pension payments must begin.

Question: Why is my pension listed on my *Annual Pension Statement* higher before age 65 than after?

Answer: If you take advantage of an early retirement option (retire before age 65), OPTrust pays a bridge benefit approximating the amount you will receive from CPP, resulting in a pension benefit of 2% until you reach age 65. At age 65, your pension comes from two sources – the lifetime OPTrust portion and the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) portion. The bridge benefit stops at the end of the month you turn age 65.

For an estimated breakdown of your CPP integrated pension at age 65, try out OPTrust's online Pension Estimator, a handy tool that illustrates your pension amount before and after age 65. ○



Dennis Wilson

OPSEU appoints new Trustee

OPSEU appointed Dennis Wilson to the OPTrust Board of Trustees for a three-year term in April 2010.

During his Ontario Public Service career spanning nearly 30 years, Wilson has worked for the Ministries of Natural Resources, Northern Development and Mines, and Labour. He is currently an Industrial Health and Safety Inspector with the Ministry of Labour.

Wilson's union activities have included Steward, Local President, Executive Board Member, Ministry Employee Relations Committee (MERC) Team Member, and positions on several bargaining teams.

"When I started working in the OPS, unclassified employees did not have the option to join the pension plan. OPSEU lobbied for and secured the right for unclassified staff to become plan members," says Wilson. "I've always recognized the value of a strong pension, and this issue has become increasingly important to me as I approach my own retirement." ○

Full 3% contribution increase needed

Like other major pension funds, the Plan experienced a substantial investment loss in 2008 due to the global financial crisis. As described in the *2009 Annual Highlights Report*, included with this newsletter, that loss has had a significant impact on the Plan's funding.

In 2009, an initial actuarial valuation identified a total funding shortfall of \$2.7 billion as of the end of 2008. This shortfall included both the Plan's funding deficit of \$1.8 billion and deferred (or "smoothed") investment losses of \$927 million, to be recognized over the following four years.

Deficit management

In response, the OPTrust's Board of Trustees, together with our two sponsors – OPSEU and the Government of Ontario – acted quickly to implement a proactive strategy for managing the deficit. Central to this strategy was the decision to implement a gradual 3% increase in member and employer contribution rates, rather than reduce members' future pension benefits. The contribution increase is being phased in over three years starting in 2010, to reduce the immediate impact on members' take-home pay and employers' payroll costs.

In the meantime, OPTrust's investment portfolio performed strongly in 2009, generating a return of 13.6%. This was double the Plan's 6.75% annual funding target return, which the Fund is expected to achieve over the long term to pay for member's and retirees' pensions.

Given this strong performance in 2009, OPTrust was asked by the Plan's sponsors to review whether the third 1% increase in

contribution rates, scheduled for 2012, would still be required.

Funding requirements

In 2009, investment income helped increase the Plan's net assets to \$12 billion at year-end, up by \$1 billion from the end of 2008. Given the Plan's funding requirements, however, this one year of growth was not enough on its own to make up for our \$2.4 billion investment loss in 2008.

In fact, our analysis has determined that the Plan would need to achieve a return of at least 15% in 2010 to be able to avoid the third 1% increase in contribution rates.

Due to the continued volatility in global investment markets, however, OPTrust's investment return for the first six months of 2010 was below the Plan's 6.75% funding target return on an annualized basis. As a result, unless there is a very significant rebound in capital markets for the latter half of 2010, eliminating the third contribution increase is not an option.

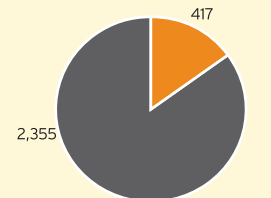
While the approved 3% contribution increase and the Plan's 2009 investment return have significantly reduced the Plan's funding deficit and smoothed losses, the Plan's current gains are not enough to avoid the full 3% contribution increase – particularly in light of the continuing high levels of investment market volatility.

In the meantime, OPTrust's Board of Trustees, our senior management and our external actuarial consultants will continue to monitor the Plan's funding status. Look for more funding updates – and how we are working to ensure the security of your OPTrust pension – in future issues of *OPTions*.

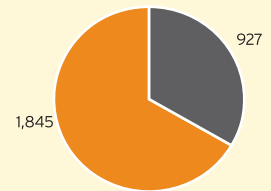
For more information on the OPTrust's deficit management strategy and the Plan's funded status, see the **2009 Annual Highlights Report** included with this issue of *OPTions*. ○

Impact of contribution increase

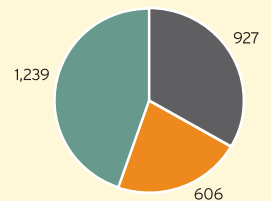
At December 31, 2008 (\$ millions)



Before smoothing cap
Total shortfall \$2,772 million



After smoothing cap
Total shortfall \$2,772 million



After contribution increase
Total shortfall \$1,533 million

- Smoothed investment loss
- Funding deficit
- Contribution increase

The phased contribution increase approved by the Plan's sponsors in 2009 reduced the 2008 funding deficit by \$1.2 billion. The remaining deficit of \$606 million is being eliminated through payments from the Plan's rate stabilization funds over 15 years. In 2009, strong investment returns helped reduce the deficit to \$393 million and the net smoothed investment loss to \$294 million.

Facts About... Your pension beneficiaries

As an OPTrust member you can count on a pension payable for your lifetime. You can also count on your pension to provide benefits for your eligible survivors after you die.

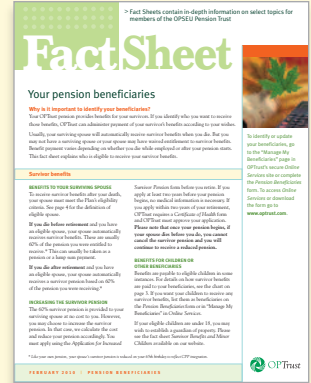
That is why it is a good idea to confirm that the beneficiary information you have provided to OPTrust is up-to-date. You can start by checking your 2009 *Annual Pension Statement*, which was sent to you online or by mail in the spring.

If you have not named any beneficiaries, or the information on your statement is incorrect, you can immediately update your records through OPTrust's secure *Online Services*. You can also update your beneficiary information using OPTrust's *Pension Beneficiaries* form, although this will take longer than completing the process online.

You should update your information when you:

- acquire an eligible spouse or end a spousal relationship
- have a child
- want to add or change your other beneficiaries

Need to update your records? Simply log on to your secure *Online Services* account and click the "Manage My Beneficiaries" button. From there you can change or update your records in three easy steps.



Who qualifies for survivor benefits?

More information on naming your beneficiaries, eligibility requirements and how survivor benefits are paid is in our fact sheet *Your pension beneficiaries* available online at www.optrust.com.

OPTions

OPTions is a newsletter for members of the OPSEU Pension Trust. Its goal is to provide useful and timely information about the OPSEU Pension Plan.

If there is any conflict between statements in this newsletter and the legal documents of the OPSEU Pension Plan, the legal documents will prevail. Please direct any questions about your personal benefits under the Plan to OPTrust. You should contact OPTrust before making any pension-related decisions.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

How to Reach Us

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1-800-637-0024 toll-free in Canada
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OPSEU Pension Trust Fiduciar du régime de retraite du SEFPO

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