

The Teachers' Pension Plan Advantage

BC's Teachers' Pension Plan is a recognized leader in Canada for pension plan design, governance and value to members and employers. Learn why.

	Registered retirement savings plan (personal retirement savings vehicle)	Defined contribution pension plan	Teachers' Pension Plan	The Teachers' Pension Plan advantage
What is the payment amount based on?	Depends on investment returns	Depends on investment returns	Determined by a set formula that uses your highest average salary, and how many years you worked and contributed to the plan	Regardless of investment returns, your basic monthly retirement income is guaranteed for life
What type of pension payment do you get?	You annuitize or make withdrawals—the amount and duration of this income depends on various factors	You annuitize or make withdrawals—the amount and duration of this income depends on various factors	You (and possibly your spouse, depending on the pension option you choose) receive a guaranteed monthly pension payment for life	You know ahead of time what your monthly pension income will be and can build your overall retirement income strategy around it
Are cost-of-living adjustments provided to help offset inflation?	No	No, however you may be able to buy a lifetime annuity that includes additional benefits such as inflation protection Note: these extras can be expensive	Sustainable cost-of-living adjustments may be approved annually at the discretion of the Teachers' Pension Board of Trustees Once a cost-of-living adjustment is granted, it becomes part of your lifetime pension Your lifetime pension is guaranteed	Adjustments may be approved annually to help offset the effects of inflation
Who contributes?	You	You and/or your employer	You and your employer	You and your employer contribute monthly to build your future pension
Who manages the investments?	You, often using a financial adviser	You, often using a financial adviser	Member and employer contributions are pooled and invested by British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCI) BCI is guided by a set of principles and policies set by the Teachers' Pension Board of Trustees A Teachers' Pension trustee sits on BCI's board of directors	You don't have to make investment decisions—plan investments are managed by a globally recognized institutional investor that provides opportunities and services at a lower cost, which individual investors can rarely access on their own
Is health care and dental coverage available?	No	No	When you retire, you may have access to group health care and dental coverage at your cost Retirement group benefits are not guaranteed; coverage at your cost may be changed at any time by the board	The plan currently offers voluntary extended health care and dental coverage to eligible retired members