



## Caring for your loved ones after you're gone



### Learn about:

Beneficiary designations

What happens if you die:

- before you retire
- after you retire

Other important considerations



**Understanding what happens to your CWIPP pension after you die can help you plan for your family's future financial needs.**

The death benefit that your surviving spouse or beneficiary may be eligible to receive from CWIPP will depend on whether you die before or after you retire.

## Beneficiary designations

First things first: to ensure that CWIPP death benefits are paid out as you intend, your beneficiary designations must be up to date.

### A note about “your spouse as your beneficiary”

According to pension law, your spouse (if you have one) will automatically be the recipient of your pre-retirement death benefits. You can always choose to actively designate your spouse as your beneficiary, *but a beneficiary is intended to be someone other than a spouse.*

Death benefits will be paid to a designated beneficiary only if you do not have a spouse when you die, or if your spouse has provided CWIPP with a Spousal Waiver.

This is one of the reasons it is very important to continually review your beneficiary designations and ensure they are up to date.



### Making sure your beneficiary designations are as you want them

Log in to your member portal at [www.cwipp.ca](http://www.cwipp.ca) to review your annual statement and see who is listed as your spouse, and/or who is listed as your beneficiary(ies).

To add or change the people named, complete the **Beneficiary form** available on your member portal – just print, complete, and mail it to us. If you would like someone other than your current spouse to receive your death benefits, please ensure you and your spouse have completed a Spousal Waiver – this document is available from CWIPP administrators upon request.

## If you die before you retire



Your spouse or beneficiary will receive the value of the CWIPP pension you have earned up to the date of your death.

*If you have a spouse* and you die before you retire, your CWIPP death benefit will be paid to your spouse.

*If you do **not** have a spouse* and you die before you retire, your CWIPP death benefit will be paid to your beneficiary. Your beneficiary must be on file with CWIPP, otherwise the death benefit will be paid to your estate.

A spouse and a beneficiary have different options in terms of what they can choose to do with the death benefit they receive.

### If you die before you retire and...

#### You have a spouse

##### In all provinces, death benefits can be paid as a monthly pension payment for your spouse's lifetime:

- They can choose to begin receiving monthly pension payments immediately or can wait until a future date – depending on their needs and financial situation. If they choose to begin receiving the monthly payments immediately, these might be lower than if they wait until a later date.

##### In all provinces *except* Alberta and BC, your spouse could alternatively choose to:

- Transfer the lump sum amount of the death benefit to an RRSP on a tax-deferred basis; or
- Receive the amount as a taxable lump sum cash payment.

##### In Alberta and BC, your spouse could:

- Transfer the lump sum amount of the death benefit to a locked-in RRSP (the funds cannot be withdrawn until at least age 55) on a tax-deferred basis.
- They cannot take the benefit as a lump sum cash payment.

#### You don't have a spouse but have a beneficiary on file with CWIPP

In all provinces, your CWIPP death benefits will be paid to your beneficiary as a taxable lump sum amount.

## When you die after you retire



When you let your employer know the date you're planning to retire, CWIPP will prepare your retirement package. Your package will include lots of information including details about the pension payment options available to you, how they work, how much pension you would receive under each option, and some key points for you to consider as you make your decision.

**Your spouse at retirement or your beneficiary will receive survivor benefits based on the pension payment option you choose when you retire.**

## A few more considerations: do your loved ones know where to find all your important documents?

Many of us have wills to ensure our wishes are fulfilled when we die.

It's equally important to have a document that lists key information about health, finances, account details, passwords, funeral arrangements, and more. It's a resource that can save your executor and/or loved ones time, money, and stress. You can easily create this document yourself – on your own, with your executor, or with a family member – so everything they need to know regarding your estate is in one convenient place. Then save it with your will, in a safety deposit box, or let your executor know where they can find it.

It's just one more key step you can take in your continuing support for the important people in your life.

**A flexible pension plan built for unions, employers, and members.**

[CWIPP.ca](http://CWIPP.ca)



This Fact Sheet is intended to inform members of the Canada-Wide Industrial Pension Plan (registration #0563445) about certain aspects of their pension plan. Complete descriptions of the plan are contained in the official plan documents. Every effort has been made to provide an accurate summary of plan features. If there are any differences between the information contained in this Fact Sheet and the legal documents, the legal documents will rule.