



Telephone Retirees Association of Manitoba – TRAM

Suite 200 - 1 Wesley Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4C6

Telephone: 866-411-6265

Website: www.traminfo.com

Reminder !! NEW TRAM mailing address

TRAM's mailing address has been changed. See the header above.

Please destroy any old TRAM envelopes using Box # addresses in your possession.

Mail remitted to Box# addresses will not reach us!!

October 15, 2018

Retiree Pension Reps Report on the BellMTS DB Pension Plan To TRAM Members.

DB Pension Committee

The last Pension committee meeting was June 19th, 2018.

We reviewed our plans investment performance as at January 1, 2018. The plan posted a rate of return on investments of 11.6% for 2017. On a four-year average as at December 31st, 2017 the annual rate of return was 9.2% gross of investment costs.

Pension Fund Investment management is now performed by Bell/Bimcor a BCE wholly owned asset management firm which has shifted the asset mix from 60% return generating and 40% low risk assets to 60% low risk assets and 40% return generating assets. The goal of this new structure is to lower the overall risk, but still generate enough return to gradually reduce the letters of credit in place.

The actuarial valuation report as of January 1, 2018, reported an actuarial surplus of \$228.7 million on a going-concern basis while the solvency test performed as of the same date showed a surplus of \$140.0 million (including letters of credit held in trust for the Plan). This is the first time in the last 10 years that both the going concern valuation and solvency valuation show a surplus.

The Plan provides for a guaranteed Cost of living adjustment (COLA) increase to pension payments each year. This guaranteed COLA is equal to two-thirds of the increase in CPI to a maximum CPI increase of 4%. In 2018, retirees received a COLA increase of 1.25% which is two-thirds of the 2017 CPI increase of 1.87%.

The next pension committee meeting is scheduled for late June, 2019.

DB Pension Surplus Implementation Committee

The Pension Surplus Implementation Committee met on June 19th, 2018 to provide a status update to the committee members on the Surplus Distribution.

As reported last time there remained approximately \$1.3M in undistributed surplus meaning that **99%** of the funds have been distributed with **1%** remaining. Approximately \$157K for 100 members must be kept in the plan in trust for Unlocated Members such as Retired Members, Beneficiaries or Deferred Members. All other Unlocated Members who are Exited Members entitlement to any Surplus was extinguished as of February, 2017 as per the court approved Surplus Implementation agreement.

In accordance with the Implementation Agreement and Final Order, on June 19th, 2018, the Committee approved a plan to distribute the remaining surplus in equal payments amongst current members, including active members, deferred vested members, retirees and beneficiaries on record as of June 19th, 2018. All eligible current plan members should have received a deposit or cheque with their August pension payment of \$230 or proportional share where there are multiple beneficiaries in receipt of a beneficiary pension.

This is the last surplus payment as per the Implementation Agreement. The company will file a Certificate of Completion with the Court certifying that the parties have completed payment of the Surplus as contemplated by the Trial Judgment and have carried out all remaining transactions identified by the Implementation Agreement.

Please direct any questions to the MTS Pension Plan website - contact us <https://mtspensionplan.ca/#contactus>

Yours truly,

J. Larry Trach
Retiree Representative
MTS DB Pension Committee
Larry.Trach@TRAMInfo.com

Blue Cross Health Benefit Plans

As of January 1, 2019, payment remittance for Blue Cross premiums will change from a source deduction from your pension cheques to monthly remittance to Blue Cross by individual subscribers, due on the 1st day of every month. *(January 2019 payment will be the last deducted at source)*

Automatic debit to your chequing account is the most convenient way to ensure continued coverage. Unfortunately, Blue Cross does not accept payment via credit card at this time.

For those members who choose the automatic debit option, It is important to return your automatic debit application to Blue Cross by November 15, 2018. Confirmation of receipt and input processing by Blue Cross is available by contacting the General inquiries line. Be sure to have the certificate and group numbers available when calling. MTS Retiree Plan Member - Group #7860.

For added convenience, those members having computer access can register to use "mybluecross" to file claims on-line. Blue Cross is currently working on enhancing their on-line facility to provide added functionality.

Premium remittance receipts for tax purposes, are available at no charge from the General inquiries line.

TRAM Membership Dues

Please check the "Member Status" (1st line) line on your newsletter envelope. This indicate your recorded Dues Status at October 15, 2018.

- A+** - 2018 Dues received and Future dues of \$10 or more received.
- A** - 2018 Dues received.
- B** - 2018 Dues are outstanding. (\$10 outstanding)
- C** - 2018 and 2017 Dues are outstanding. (\$20 outstanding)
- D** - 2018, 2017 and 2016 Dues are outstanding. (\$30 outstanding)
- E** - 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015 Dues are outstanding. (\$40 outstanding)

NOTES:

- TRAM Annual Dues (\$10) are due January 1st of each year.
- Dues received are first applied to a member's outstanding or missed contributions.
- Members with outstanding dues for 4 or more years at year end are considered "Inactive".
- Inactive Members are removed from the mail distribution list.

Miscellaneous

Annual TRAM Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2018 @ 12:00 noon at the Viscount Gort Hotel. See the last page of this newsletter for more details.

MTS Retires Ladies Luncheon 2018 will be held Thursday, November 1, 2018 @ 12:00 noon at the Norwood Community Centre, 87 Walmar Street. For more information, contact Joan Ferris at 204-475-8513.

BellMTS Volunteers will be selling Limited edition Oak urns stamped with the MTS Pioneers #50 logo. For more information, contact John Bell at 204-237-3092.

