

# PJPP

**Ontario  
Provincial Judges  
Pension Plan**

Provincial Judges Pension Board  
2023 Annual Report  
For the year ended December 31, 2023

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## Chair's Message

At the heart of effective pension plan governance is an accountable Board that makes decisions deliberately, operates transparently and remains focused on delivering the pension promise. Each member of the Provincial Judges Pension Board (PJPB or the "Board") embraces these principles, and it has been my honour to serve as Chair during the period covered by this report.

Looking back, 2023 was a year marked by challenge and opportunity, particularly in the financial markets, as the Bank of Canada attempted to rein in inflation by raising its key interest rate to a level not seen since 2001. Like all defined benefit pension plans, we need to pay close attention to interest rates and inflation since they can directly affect Plan funding. In 2023, we finished work on two key funding-related strategic objectives needed for the new funding arrangement: adoption of a Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (SIP&P) and filing the Plan's actuarial funding valuation with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

The SIP&P defines our approach to investing the Registered Pension Plan's (RPP) assets so it can meet its financial obligations relative to the pension promise, whereas the actuarial funding valuation assesses the funded status of the Plan. Board approval was the result of extensive consultation with our stakeholders and advisors, including the Association of Ontario Judges (AOJ), and marks a significant milestone for the Board, our stakeholders and the Plan's members. The adoption of the SIP&P will support the transition of the Judges' RPP from low-risk money market instruments toward a more effective asset mix.

I am also pleased to report that in 2023, the Board continued to document its governance framework by approving its Mission, Vision and Values Statement (the "Statement"). In keeping with our commitment to transparency through consultation, we sought and obtained much appreciated feedback from our key stakeholders, the AOJ and the staff at Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS). Since the Board contracts with third parties (i.e., Ontario Pension Board (OPB) for service delivery and the Investment Management Corporation of Ontario (IMCO) for investment management services), this was an important step for the Board, helping to ensure that our service providers understand our priorities when delivering services on our behalf.

Our communications program continued to grow, leveraging the success of the Annual Pension Statement (APS) launched in 2021, by delivering more than 1,700 personal letters and general notices in 2023. The messages informed Plan members of their pension entitlements values, advised of pension changes due to indexation adjustments, and provided insured benefits information and timely tax reporting. In keeping with our commitment to introduce digital communications, work to create a new Provincial Judges' Pension Plan (PJPP or the "Plan") website began in 2023 with completion targeted for late 2024. Finally, while call volumes were down by 20%, we did see a 60% year-over-year increase in pension estimate requests largely due to increasing Plan member awareness driven by PJPP communications and interactions with OPB staff.

In May of 2023, the Honourable Sharon M. Nicklas was appointed Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice replacing Chief Justice Lise T. Maisonneuve, whose eight-year term ended May 31, 2023. Chief Justice Maisonneuve had a keen interest in the Board's work and pensions in general and we appreciated her significant contributions and support. We are working with the staff and office of Chief Justice Nicklas and expect to continue the same effective working relationship.

In my role as PJPB Chair, I rely on a skilled team of Board members, administrative experts and professionals. First, I am grateful to my Board colleagues for their invaluable contributions over the course of 2023. Their passion, dedication to this Plan's membership, and willingness to share their unique skills and expertise help position this Plan for success well into the future. I also want to acknowledge the AOJ for their ongoing input to the Board and their commitment to protecting the entitlements of the PJPP membership. Moreover, their feedback during our various consultations has been instrumental in developing meaningful member communications and pension policy.

Again, on behalf of the Board, I also want to acknowledge the professionalism and support provided every day by the dedicated staff at OPB, TBS and IMCO.

We have accomplished a lot in the past year, but more work remains to ensure that we tirelessly pursue excellence in service to our clients, our operations and governance structure. I look forward to continuing our mission to deliver secure pensions and excellent service to the many sitting judges that make up the Ontario Court of Justice, who serve the people of Ontario so capably, and to the many retired judges and their survivors.



**Deborah A. (Debbie) Oakley**

Chair of the Provincial Judges Pension Board

September 11, 2024

## Our Mandate

The Provincial Judges Pension Board (PJPB or the “Board”) is the Administrator of the Provincial Judges’ Pension Plan (PJPP or the “Plan”). The PJPP is comprised of a Registered Pension Plan (RPP), a Retirement Compensation Arrangement (RCA) and a Supplemental Pension Plan (SUP). We are responsible for providing steady, independent oversight of the administration of the Plan and investment of two trust funds for the RPP and RCA. In carrying out the duties under our mandate, the Board has a fiduciary obligation to act in the best interests of the Plan membership and other beneficiaries.

The Board is constituted as a trust agency operating at arm’s length from the provincial government. Five members are appointed to the Board by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, including a representative nominated by the AOJ, and a Chair is designated from among the appointed members.

Our mandate is set in Regulation under the *Courts of Justice Act* and, since 2020, has encompassed expanded responsibilities for Plan-related communications, regulatory compliance and asset management related to Plan funding. Combined with our long-standing responsibility for determining eligibility and authorizing payment of pension entitlements and survivor allowances, the Board is accountable for all aspects of administration of the Plan and Fund.

# Our Mission, Vision and Values

## PJPB Mission

To deliver excellent state-of-the-art service to members and beneficiaries, invest the Plan's assets prudently to ensure the pension promise is sustained and work effectively with key stakeholders.

## PJPB Vision

Be a trusted and highly effective Board, with a mature governance system providing oversight to pension and fund administration.

## PJPB Values

**Accountability** - We are responsible for our words, our actions, and our results.

**Independence** - Our decisions will be driven by our fiduciary duties to put Plan beneficiaries interests above all others.

**Transparent** - We communicate openly and honestly to all our stakeholders.

**Integrity** - We are trustworthy and make responsible decisions based on professional director standards.

**Ethical** - We strive to meet the highest ethical standards in everything we do.

## The Year in Review

During 2023, the Provincial Judges Pension Board (PJPB or the “Board”) remained focused on four strategic priorities: enhancing the pension plan governance system; cultivating the Plan’s viability; delivering excellent member service; and building effective stakeholder relations. Each initiative was carefully selected and is expected to drive both Board and Plan performance. A summary of our progress organized by strategic priority appears below. More information about alignment of the Board’s activities and results with the Minister’s mandate letter appear under the Mandate Achievements section.

### **Strategic Priority - Enhance Governance Structures and Processes for the Plan and Funds**

**Develop and Approve a PJPB Business Continuity Plan** - A Business Continuity Plan (BCP) is an indispensable tool for speeding recovery from a business threat or disaster. By adopting a BCP at the June 2023 quarterly meeting, the PJPB now has written processes and information (e.g., role clarification for the various parties and key contact information) available to assist in performing its role should an incident or event affect the continuity of Board operations. The Board expects to assess its response and collective decision making through a mock exercise in 2024.

### **ESTABLISH PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR OPB AND IMCO FOR ONGOING EVALUATION**

Both the Investment Management Corporation of Ontario (IMCO) staff and Ontario Pension Board (OPB) staff have performance measures established within their respective Service Level Agreements incorporated. The PJPB does not have its own organization and staff. In 2023, OPB introduced redesigned board reporting in the form of a summary quarterly report. This report provides a high-level assessment of operational transactions in progress as well comparative service statistics.

The Board also considers internal audit to be a vital tool for independently assessing performance and achieving accountability. Both OPB and IMCO began assisting the PJPB with a review of their approaches to internal audit and objective setting. Since many of OPB’s internal audits focused on processes that either include PJPP membership or the general operating environment, it agreed to share the relevant final internal audit reports for the Board’s review and allow it to monitor management’s response to any findings. The Board has received a schedule of planned internal audits for the five-year period from 2022 to 2026.

## **EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXTEND SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING TO PJPB MEMBERS**

As a Board, the PJPB is not immune to cybersecurity risk, and we asked our key service provider, OPB, to develop an education session that best suited the Board's role and responsibilities. In November 2023, OPB delivered a customized seminar that explained its Cybersecurity Risk Management Program and provided a set of practical recommendations to help shape the PJPB's oversight of cyber risk. The recommendations include documenting the Board's Incident Response Plan and continuing Board training to improve familiarity and response effectiveness.

## **REVISE ANNUAL REPORT AND BUSINESS PLANNING PROCESSES**

Annual Reports and Business Plans are important organizational documents that enhance transparency and accountability to our Plan members, the Plan Sponsor and the public. For this reason, it is important that the PJPB produce high-quality communications relating to its annual planning and reporting obligations. Requirements for *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* compliance and French language translations mean that the process must finish earlier if we are to make the submission deadlines.

For 2023, we implemented a schedule that started the business planning process by having outlines presented to the Board for discussion at its March quarterly meeting. More developed content was then presented at the June quarterly meeting, with the final drafts presented in September just before submission to the Treasury Board. This approach provides an excellent starting point in 2023 that will require some fine tuning in the coming years to accommodate the expanded participation of service providers and related content.

## **Strategic Priority - Cultivate the Plan's Long-Term Viability (Security of the Promise)**

**Complete/File Actuarial Funding Valuation by December 31, 2023 and Communicate Results to Key Stakeholders** - Under the provisions of the *Income Tax Act*, a plan valuation report must be filed with the CRA within four years of the most recently filed valuation. An actuarial funding valuation as at January 1, 2023 was prepared and filed by December 31, 2023 in satisfaction of the PJPB's regulatory obligations.

Actuarial valuations provide critical information to Plan Administrators about the funded status of the plan they oversee and make recommendations for plan funding going forward. The valuation as at January 1, 2023 concluded there is a funding shortfall in the RPP Trust and recommended the Province contribute an amount equal to the shortfall and also make contributions to improve the funding level of the Retirement Compensation Arrangement (RCA) Trust. The Province acted on the recommendations, and the Board will have an opportunity to assess the impact of the additional contributions on the Plan's funding when its annual valuation is prepared in 2024.



## **IMPLEMENT FUND INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

The investment objective of the initial short-term investment strategy was to provide a highly liquid portfolio of money market securities predominantly comprised of Canadian Government T-Bills and high-quality short-term securities. The primary focus is on capital preservation and liquidity given the increased levels of market volatility and uncertainty since the pandemic.

In 2023, the Board was able to adopt its longer-term Strategic Asset Allocation (SAA) and SIP&P in the fall. With these pieces in place, the Board began shifting Fund assets from the existing investment portfolio toward its selected long-term optimal investment portfolio, and began moving to the new asset mix based on ongoing advice and consultation with IMCO and the PJPB's expert advisors (Aon and Willis Towers Watson Canada Inc. (WTW)).

## **Strategic Priority - Deliver Excellent Cost-Effective Member Service**

### **DEVELOP INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) ELECTRONIC SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN INCLUDING WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT**

The Board considers the development of IT service delivery to be vital for improving our service offerings as well as making progress against government priorities for digital delivery and customer service. We believe that creating a service delivery plan will help define the Board's expectations so we can more effectively explore interim and longer-term solutions that take advantage of OPB's current system modernization initiatives and deliver a more cost-effective PJPP solution. In 2023, the Board agreed to proceed with planning for and implementation of a bilingual PJPP website to be fully deployed in 2024.

### **ADOPT ELECTRONIC FULFILMENT SOLUTION FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL PENSION STATEMENT (APS)**

The Board's communications program now features a successful regular APS production which uses a secure but temporary method of electronic delivery to sitting judges. The Board is committed to developing a permanent solution but recognized it would not be achievable in the timeline required for the 2023 APS secure production. Collaboration with the Chief Justice Office was necessary again this year to facilitate a safe electronic delivery of the APS by providing access to their email system.

The APS satisfaction survey confirmed how crucial this partnership was to maintaining security of APS personal information, as 100% of respondents expressed satisfaction ("Satisfied" and "Somewhat satisfied") with the security of their APS. We were once again grateful to the Chief Justice Office for enabling electronic delivery of the APS to 277 sitting judges who are active in the Plan.

## **ADOPT THE BOARD'S MISSION, VISION AND VALUES STATEMENT**

The PJPB completed its review and adopted a new Mission, Vision and Values Statement as planned in 2023. In keeping with the Board's commitment to transparency, key stakeholders were consulted and had an opportunity to provide feedback on earlier drafts. Amending the mission, vision and values will help the Plan's stakeholders, including our service agents, better understand the Board's strategic goals so they can contribute effectively to achieving them.

## **REMUNERATION COMMISSION SUPPORT AS REQUIRED**

The PJPB does not participate in the Provincial Judges Remuneration Commission (the "Commission") process. However, the Commission may make pension recommendations which in turn can have an impact on the Plan's administration (e.g., additional member communication, application for regulatory approval). The PJPB is prepared to assist with identifying the administrative effects of proposed changes to the Plan, if consulted. The Commission has not begun its review; consequently, there were no requests for support.

## **Strategic Priority - Foster Effective Stakeholder Relations**

### **DOCUMENT ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG)/INVESTMENT BELIEFS**

Many pension plans have adopted policy to set out their framework for assessing risk and opportunities relating to ESG factors and their investment decision making. The Board continues to consult key stakeholders and advisors regarding its response and whether it will proceed with documenting its ESG/Investment Beliefs.

## **Operational Performance**

### **DELIVERY OF PENSIONS**

The PJPB continued to oversee delivery of high-quality, cost-effective services to the Plan's membership throughout 2023. At the end of the year, 369 beneficiaries were receiving either a pension or survivor allowance from the PJPP and 291 full-time sitting judges were actively accruing pension entitlements.

In the 12 months ending December 31, 2023, the Board conducted four regular quarterly meetings to consider regular business (e.g., approval of pension payments, operational updates) and special approvals mostly related to Fund governance and redesign implementation. Additional working meetings were required to either consider special business or facilitate briefings with key stakeholders.

The Board monitors its service providers through regular reporting on pending and outstanding work at its quarterly meetings. The Board also relies on the quarterly presentation of the PJPP Call Activity Report to assess telephone service delivery performance. These reports facilitate Board oversight of service delivery relative to commitments within the service agreements. For 2023, the PJPB met or exceeded its client service standards over the period of this report: no application for pension or other benefit from the Plan, or pension estimates, took longer than 60 days in total to process. In addition, all regulatory and agency reporting requirements were completed and filed on time and there are no known outstanding issues.

Once again there were no requests for adjudication or appeals of decisions made during the reporting period. At its regular quarterly meetings, the PJPB reviewed and approved 22 new annual pensions and survivor allowances, all under the new Plan provisions that require calculation of the three-tiered pension benefit entitlement. In the reporting period ending December 31, 2023, there were two refunds of contributions paid on resignation, however, there were no applications for lump sum payments in respect of a family law settlement.

The corresponding annual value of new pensions and survivor allowances approved by the Board for payment was \$4.520 million. All pension payments commenced on time and within service commitments set out in the OPB Service Level Agreement (SLA).

## **ANNUAL COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS**

The Plan provides for annual cost-of-living increases that are calculated using two different methods. Depending on the judge's eligibility, they may receive either a Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment every January 1st or an adjustment based on the Industrial Aggregate Index (IAI) (Canada) given to sitting judges each April 1st. These payments are approved each year by the Board, and there were two adjustments in total paid in the 2023 fiscal year, which aligns with the calendar year-end.

Effective January 1, 2023, the CPI-based cost-of-living allowance (COLA) was calculated as 6.3%. It was applied to a total of 231 pensions and survivor allowances and went into pay as planned on January 20, 2023. Every individual whose pension was affected received a personalized communication advising of their increase and providing a brief explanation of the COLA calculation.

In October 2023, the Board approved escalation adjustments to pensions and survivor allowances to reflect the annual IAI salary adjustments under the Framework Agreement on Judges' Remuneration. Pensions for affected retired provincial judges or their survivors were increased by 2.9% effective April 1st, with retroactive amounts owed paid in a lump sum. The adjusted pensions and retroactive amounts were paid as expected on October 20, 2023.

During the week of October 16, 2023, OPB sent 130 personalized notifications of a change in pay by regular mail on behalf of the PJPB. There were no disputes with pension values or entitlements. The number of affected pensions were composed of 123 pensions in pay and seven pension recalculations for individuals retiring since April 1, 2023.

### **SENSITIVITY OF JUDGES' DATA**

Personal information belonging to sitting and retired judges is extremely sensitive and if accidentally disclosed could have a serious effect on the privacy and personal safety of the individual judge. The Board recognizes the special circumstances that apply to judges and requires that OPB ensure personal information is properly secured, especially prior to transmission by mail or electronic means. Member communications containing personal information (e.g., Annual Pension Statement) have been deployed according to OPB's well-established privacy policy and processes. As a result, the Board was able to successfully mitigate the risks associated with a privacy breach.

### **Financial Performance**

Prior to the redesign of Plan funding, the PJPP operated as an unfunded Plan, with member contributions held by, and pension payments made entirely from, the Province's Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF). In 2020, important changes were made to the funding framework, as two components of the Plan, the RPP and the newly created RCA, became funded pension arrangements, with assets being held and invested under two newly created trusts. The third component of the Plan, the Supplementary Plan (SUPP), continues to be funded from the Province's CRF. The Board is responsible for oversight of Plan administration and investment of the RPP and RCA components. The SUPP is overseen by the Government of Ontario, Treasury Board.

Vital discussions continued in 2023 between the AOJ, TBS and the Board regarding issues affecting the Plan's adoption of a SIP&P, completion of the long-term IMA with IMCO, and transition to a long-term SAA. While the discussions were ongoing, the RPP's assets remained invested in Canadian Treasury Bills and high-quality short-term securities; a strategy that is consistent with the interim provisions established within the Board's IMA. The purpose of this approach is to maintain safety and liquidity until the SAA is implemented. As expected, Fund returns for the 2023 Plan year were reported as 5.1% (net of expenses) and are reflective of the conservative strategy. With the adoption of the SAA and SIP&P, the PJPB was able to finalize the long-term IMCO IMA on October 31, 2023, and begin to transition the RPP Fund toward a more effective risk-adjusted asset mix.

Regular member contributions equal to 7% of salary continued to flow into the RPP and RCA during the reporting period. Member contributions that exceed the maximum amount permitted for an RPP are remitted to the RCA. In 2023, the Province made funding payments of just under \$30 million to the RCA in addition to member matching contributions. Fifty percent of these payments, along with the member contributions, are sent to a Refundable Tax Account with the CRA and generate no income for the Fund.

An initial actuarial valuation was prepared for the PJPP as at January 1, 2020, for the purpose of establishing the Plan's contribution requirements in accordance with the *Income Tax Act*, until the next actuarial valuation is performed. The valuation was filed with the CRA and the actuary's recommendations for employer contributions to the Plan were approved.

Under the provisions of the *Income Tax Act*, a plan valuation report must be filed with the CRA within four years of the most recently filed valuation, unless there's a plan amendment affecting funding. The Board has not filed an actuarial funding valuation since 2020; consequently, a valuation was completed by the Board's Actuary in 2023 and filed with the CRA in satisfaction of its regulatory obligations.

The Board is responsible for the administration of the Plan and investment of its funds but has no employees to carry out its responsibilities. Both OPB and IMCO have personnel, facilities, systems and processes in place to administer all aspects of a pension plan and fund. OPB and IMCO have been named to play key roles in supporting the Board and are providing defined services to the Board on a cost-recovery basis. Plan expenses related to RPP and RCA administration are paid from the respective funds. Expenses relating to the SUPP are paid directly by the Province.

Operating expenses for the PJPP include costs associated with managing and administering the Plan and its funds. Using the RPP as a reasonable proxy, these costs were 0.15% of net assets available for benefits at the end of 2023 compared to 0.16% in 2022. In 2023, total pension administration expenditures (\$1.756 million) were within 1.2% of PJPB budget estimates (\$1.777 million) due largely to lower-than-expected project fees.

OPB is compensated on a fixed fee basis for managing the day-to-day pension administration services required to maintain the Plan's operations. The SLA between the PJPB, OPB and TBS considers the possibility that OPB may be asked to perform additional services in addition to those specified in the agreement. Recent examples include the data validation project and the initial APS. These projects are included in the Pension Administration Expense and typically allocated among the Funds. Recurring projects requiring recovery in 2023 included preliminary work on the website and the 2023 APS production and member survey.

## Mandate Achievements

The Minister's mandate letter was dated September 29, 2022. The Board was asked to focus on the following four priorities:

- I. **Continue its focus on enhancing effective oversight of the operational (including cybersecurity), strategic, legal and financial risks encountered by the PJPB and the PJPP, as well as managing any residual impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic or its recovery efforts.**

### COMMENTS

Regular reporting is vital to effective risk oversight. Over the review period, the Board continued to track risks through its established Enterprise Risk Management Framework. The Board has established a quarterly risk reporting schedule that is tailored to its needs and there is regular discussion with the Board member assigned to the risk management role.

Business continuity is part of the PJPB risk inventory, and since the Board relies heavily on third parties for operational services, the simplest form of mitigation can be achieved by ensuring that its service providers have well-developed plans. The PJPB's service providers have each confirmed they have processes to notify the Board and manage incident responses as required. In 2023, the PJPB completed its own Business Continuity Plan with Board approval at its June 2023 quarterly meeting.

- II. **Expectation for effective governance and operations structure and processes that support and measure effective administration and performance of the redesigned Plan and its funds.**

### COMMENTS

Protecting the security of PJPP benefits is a key responsibility of the PJPB, and one way the Board can assess the financial health of the pension promise is to periodically evaluate the funded status of the Plan. In 2023, the Board needed to complete and file its actuarial funding valuation with the CRA. Regular valuations provide information about the Plan's sustainability and can serve as a decision-making tool allowing a Sponsor to anticipate and address emerging funding issues before they can threaten the Plan. In addition to meeting our regulatory obligations, the Board is committed to performing annual valuations to ensure effective administration of the Plan and its funds.

In 2023, OPB piloted a modified performance report with the Board. The updated report now appears in a summary format and quickly conveys information about service delivery in the prior quarter. The information is regularly presented at the Board's quarterly meetings and provides a high-level summary of administrative activities and performance over the review period. This initiative provides another tool for the Board to track and assess the effectiveness of the Plan's administration.

**III. Provide strong oversight of both IMCO, in its role in managing assets the PJPB is accountable for, and OPB, in its role as management and with regard to its service level responsibilities in respect of the PJPP.**

**COMMENTS**

The PJPB's relationship with IMCO was initially defined within the IMA that took effect March 17, 2020. At that time, the Board adopted an interim schedule of permitted investments and restrictions to be in place until an SAA could be established with the input of the fully represented Board (i.e., filling the AOJ representative vacancy). As a result, the assets were invested in Canadian Treasury Bills to maintain safety and liquidity, and there was no change by the end of the fiscal year. Governance structures and processes needed to oversee IMCO's role in managing the assets exist and are sufficient while discussions between the Sponsor and the AOJ concerning implementation issues continued into 2023. The Board did approve its SAA, SIP&P and amendments to its IMA in August 2023. Implementation is in progress.

Willis Towers Watson Canada Inc. (WTW) is the independent investment advisor to the Board, providing consulting services in relation to the development and implementation of the Board's long-term investment strategy and quarterly performance reporting. In addition, the Board may turn to WTW to provide support on other investment-related matters including governance and oversight of the Board's investment manager, IMCO.

Board oversight was strengthened in 2022 when the PJPB established its approach to internal audit and setting its objectives. At the Board's request, OPB presented a schedule of planned internal audits, beginning in 2022, that Deloitte LLP would conduct. It was recognized that many of the internal audits focused on processes that either include PJPP membership or the general operating environment and might be relevant to the administration of the PJPP. This way, the PJPB could have cost-effective access to internal audit services with the option of engaging separate internal audit services if needed. Five internal audits were scheduled, completed and reported on in 2023.

#### **IV. Provide superior client service that helps members understand their pension entitlements, rights and responsibilities under the Plan.**

##### **COMMENTS**

In 2023, the PJPB continued formal discussions with OPB regarding its options for developing an IT/Communications Strategy. The strategy would involve modernizing the PJPP administration through technology, communication and related governance enhancements to performance reporting and workflow tracking, which could be made available through work already being done by OPB.

The Board continues to develop its strategic vision for maximizing the use of technology in its service improvements. At this time there is an expectation that a digital solution should deliver three outcomes: 1) support delivery of superior client service, effective communications and strong stakeholder relations; 2) support effective and measurable administration and performance of the Plan and funds; and 3) align PJPP governance and operations with government-wide priorities relating to technology and innovation.

At the Board's request, OPB developed project scope, budget and timelines for enhancements to technology and communications with project commencement to follow in 2024.

The Annual Pension Statement (APS) is an important regular communication tool that provides Plan members with personalized information about their Plan and their current and future entitlements in a digital format. Once again, the PJPB oversaw delivery of the APS program for active members of the PJPP. In addition to the pension statement, members also receive an explanatory guide and the option to provide feedback through a survey.

In addition to the APS, the Board regularly interacts with the membership through written, verbal and other digital means. Using OPB's Client Service infrastructure, the PJPB can deliver Plan information to members and retirees through several convenient options, including direct contact with OPB's Client Care Centre, electronic responses to questions about the Plan and regular and ad hoc written communications explaining changes affecting their entitlements or insured benefits.



## Board of Directors

Appointee	Date First Appointed	Current Term Expiry Date	Total Annual Remuneration <sup>1</sup>	Per Diem Remuneration Rate <sup>2</sup>	Expenses
Deborah Anne Oakley, Chair	October 22, 2009	March 11, 2026	\$69,300	\$350	\$ NIL
Elizabeth Boyd, Member	April 10, 2013	December 9, 2023 <sup>3</sup>	\$4,200	\$200	\$ NIL
Gus Gatzios, Member	February 27, 2020	February 26, 2025	\$8,500	\$200	\$ NIL
Kevin Adolphe, Member	April 16, 2020	April 15, 2026	\$13,100	\$200	\$ NIL
Vacant Member	N/A	N/A	\$	\$	\$

1 Fiscal year-end was amended in 2021 to December 31st. Remuneration is reported for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2023.

2 Remuneration rate is set according to Schedule A to the Agencies and Appointments Directive. An increase from Level 1 to Level 2 became effective July 7, 2021 to reflect the Board's additional responsibilities under its expanded mandate.

3 Members serve three years and until a successor is appointed. Members are eligible for reappointment.

Provincial Judges' Pension Plan  
Audited Financial Statements  
For the year ended December 31, 2023

## Management’s Responsibility for Financial Reporting

The financial statements of the Provincial Judges’ Pension Plan (“PJPP”) have been prepared by management, which is responsible for the integrity and fairness of the data presented. The accounting policies followed in the preparation of these financial statements are in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans. Of necessity, many amounts in the financial statements must be based on the best estimates and judgment of management with appropriate consideration as to materiality.

Systems of internal control and supporting procedures are maintained to provide assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded against unauthorized use or disposition, and proper records are maintained. The system includes careful hiring and training of staff, the establishment of an organizational structure that provides for a well-defined division of responsibilities and the communication of policies and guidelines of business conduct throughout the PJPP.

The Provincial Judges Pension Board (the “PJPB”) is ultimately responsible for the financial statements of the PJPP. The PJPB reviews the financial statements in detail with management before such statements are approved. The PJPB meets with management and the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario to review the scope and timing of audits, to review their findings and suggestions for improvements in internal control, and to satisfy themselves that their responsibilities and those of management have been properly discharged.

The financial statements have been audited by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario. The Auditor’s responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans. The Independent Auditor’s Report outlines the scope of the Auditor’s examination and opinion.



**Mark A. Henry**  
Director, Managed Plans  
Ontario Pension Board



**Armand de Kemp**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Ontario Pension Board

June 12, 2024



## Independent Auditor's Report

To the Provincial Judges Pension Board and to the President of the Treasury Board

### Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Provincial Judges' Pension Plan (the Plan), which comprise the statements of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits and the statements of changes in pension obligations for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies (together, "the financial statements").

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Plan as at December 31, 2023, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits and the changes in its pension obligations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans.

### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Plan in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Plan either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Plan's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Provincial Judges' Pension Plan's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Provincial Judges' Pension Plan to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Toronto, Ontario  
June 12, 2024



Shelley Spence, CPA, CA, LPA  
Auditor General

## Statements of Financial Position

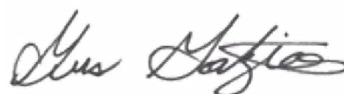
As at December 31 (in thousands of dollars)	2023 RPP	2023 RCA	2023 SUPP	2022 RPP	2022 RCA	2022 SUPP
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash	\$ 2,262	\$ 25,684	\$ 225	\$ 1,088	\$ 11,448	\$ 95
Investments (Note 5)	401,742	–	–	400,480	–	–
Investment-related assets (Note 5)	12,021	–	–	–	–	–
Contributions receivable						
Members	580	26	–	534	25	–
Province	20,649	–	–	745	–	–
Other receivables	431	2,039	74	158	204	7
Refundable tax asset (Note 6)	–	48,556	–	–	46,780	–
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>437,685</b>	<b>76,305</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>403,005</b>	<b>58,457</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Investment-related liabilities (Note 5)	7,500	–	–	–	–	–
Accounts payable	221	6,272	22	189	155	10
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>7,721</b>	<b>6,272</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Net assets available for benefits</b>	<b>429,964</b>	<b>70,033</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>402,816</b>	<b>58,302</b>	<b>92</b>
Pension obligation (Note 13)	433,894	448,225	471,711	466,386	456,502	472,172
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$ (3,930)</b>	<b>\$ (378,192)</b>	<b>\$ (471,434)</b>	<b>\$ (63,570)</b>	<b>\$ (398,200)</b>	<b>\$ (472,080)</b>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Board:



**Deborah A. (Debbie) Oakley**  
Chair, Provincial Judges Pension Board



**Gus Gatzios**  
Member, Provincial Judges Pension Board

## Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

For the year ended December 31 (in thousands of dollars)	2023 RPP	2023 RCA	2023 SUPP	2022 RPP	2022 RCA	2022 SUPP
<b>Increase in net assets</b>						
Net investment income (Note 7)	\$ 20,168	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 6,556	\$ –	\$ –
Bank interest income	193	1,885	49	–	29	–
Contributions						
Members current service	5,826	584	–	5,520	562	–
Province matching payments	–	584	–	–	562	–
Province funding payments	25,669	29,900	23,115	5,520	36,053	19,480
<b>Increase in net assets</b>	<b>51,856</b>	<b>32,953</b>	<b>23,164</b>	<b>17,596</b>	<b>37,206</b>	<b>19,480</b>
<b>Decrease in net assets</b>						
Benefits paid	23,649	20,588	22,978	21,442	17,843	21,146
Termination payments	213	14	1	–	–	–
Pension administration expenses (Note 8)	636	620	–	649	649	–
Investment management expenses (Note 9)	210	–	–	125	–	–
<b>Decrease in net assets</b>	<b>24,708</b>	<b>21,222</b>	<b>22,979</b>	<b>22,216</b>	<b>18,492</b>	<b>21,146</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets for the year</b>	<b>27,148</b>	<b>11,731</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>(4,620)</b>	<b>18,714</b>	<b>(1,666)</b>
<b>Net assets, at beginning of the year</b>	<b>402,816</b>	<b>58,302</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>407,436</b>	<b>39,588</b>	<b>1,758</b>
<b>Net assets, at end of the year</b>	<b>\$ 429,964</b>	<b>\$ 70,033</b>	<b>\$ 277</b>	<b>\$ 402,816</b>	<b>\$ 58,302</b>	<b>\$ 92</b>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.



# Statements of Changes in Pension Obligations

For the year ended December 31 (in thousands of dollars)	2023 RPP	2023 RCA	2023 SUPP	2022 RPP	2022 RCA	2022 SUPP
<b>Pension obligations, at beginning of the year</b>	\$ 466,386	\$ 456,502	\$ 472,172	\$ 505,690	\$ 480,633	\$ 485,383
<b>Increase in pension obligations</b>						
Service accrual	17,514	18,842	21,746	20,802	21,655	24,555
Interest cost	17,602	17,314	17,919	13,141	12,547	12,664
Indexation loss (Note 13)	7,358	7,776	6,409	10,844	11,502	10,426
Net experience losses (Note 13)	814	2,690	11,395	5,036	16,722	22,681
<b>Increase in pension obligations</b>	<b>43,288</b>	<b>46,622</b>	<b>57,469</b>	<b>49,823</b>	<b>62,426</b>	<b>70,326</b>
<b>Decrease in pension obligations</b>						
Benefits paid	23,862	20,602	22,979	21,442	17,843	21,146
Net impact of change in assumptions (Note 13)	51,918	34,297	34,951	67,685	68,714	62,391
<b>Decrease in pension obligations</b>	<b>75,780</b>	<b>54,899</b>	<b>57,930</b>	<b>89,127</b>	<b>86,557</b>	<b>83,537</b>
<b>Net decrease in pension obligations</b>	<b>(32,492)</b>	<b>(8,277)</b>	<b>(461)</b>	<b>(39,304)</b>	<b>(24,131)</b>	<b>(13,211)</b>
<b>Pension obligations, at end of the year</b>	<b>\$ 433,894</b>	<b>\$ 448,225</b>	<b>\$ 471,711</b>	<b>\$ 466,386</b>	<b>\$ 456,502</b>	<b>\$ 472,172</b>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

As at and for the year ended December 31, 2023

## Note 1: Description of the Provincial Judges' Pension Plan

On January 1, 2020, Ontario Regulation 290/13 ("Regulation") was amended to split the Provincial Judges' Pension Plan ("PJPP" or the "Plan") into three different parts: a Registered Pension Plan Trust ("RPP"), a Retirement Compensation Arrangement Trust ("RCA") and a Supplemental Pension Account ("SUPP"). The PJPP is included as an employee future benefit liability within the consolidated financial statements of the Province of Ontario ("Province" or "Plan Sponsor"). The RPP, RCA, and SUPP are not subject to the reporting requirements under the Ontario *Pension Benefits Act, R.S.O. 1990* and Regulations ("Pension Benefits Act").

The Government of Ontario is the sponsor of all three parts of the Plan. The Provincial Judges Pension Board ("the Board") is the administrator of the RPP and RCA for the purposes of the *Income Tax Act (Canada) R.S.C. 1985* ("Income Tax Act"). The Board is also the trustee of both the RPP and RCA with all powers afforded to the trustee by the respective trust agreements. The Ontario Minister of Finance ("Minister") is the custodian of the SUPP. Any assets of the SUPP are held within the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Province of Ontario. The Board oversees the administration of the PJPP and, in accordance with applicable law, oversees all administrative functions in respect of the pensions, survivor allowances and refunds.

The primary purpose of the Plan is to provide eligible judges with pension in the form of periodic payments following their retirement from full-time service as Provincial judges.

### RPP

The RPP is registered for income tax purposes and provides for pension benefits up to the limit permitted under the Income Tax Act.

### RCA

The RCA provides supplementary pension benefits to members whose earnings result in a pension that exceeds the maximum pension benefits permitted under the Income Tax Act for the RPP. The Income Tax Act limits the maximum benefits that are permitted to be paid to pensioners.

### SUPP

The SUPP supplements the pensions of members whose benefits provided by the above two components are above the maximum prescribed by the Income Tax Act. A right under this part of the PJPP to a supplemental pension or supplemental survivor allowance is only in respect of service on or after January 1, 1992.

## **Note 2: Administration of the Plan**

The Ontario Pension Board (“OPB”) has been jointly selected by the Minister and the Provincial Judges Pension Board to assist the Board in carrying out its responsibilities and assist the Government of Ontario in carrying out its pension administration responsibilities in respect of the Plan.

The *Investment Management Corporation of Ontario Act, 2015* created the Investment Management Corporation of Ontario (“IMCO”), an entity providing investment management and selected advisory services to participating organizations in Ontario’s broader public sector with the ownership of the investment assets remaining with the participants. IMCO was appointed as the sole and exclusive investment manager for the investment assets of the RPP and RCA. The investment management agreement between IMCO and the Board for the management of the RPP and RCA assets was effective March 17, 2020 and amended on September 18, 2023 for the management of the RPP assets.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, IMCO did not manage any of the RCA assets.

The Board retains responsibility for setting the investment strategy and target asset mix for the RPP’s and RCA’s investments.

## **Note 3: Description of the Plan**

The following is a brief description of the Plan provided for general purposes only. For more complete information, reference should be made to the Regulation.

### **FUNDING POLICY**

The RPP and RCA are contributory defined benefit pension plans covering eligible judges (members) of the Ontario Court of Justice. The RPP does not require matching contributions from the Province. The RCA requires the Province to contribute an amount at least equal to the RCA contributions from the members. The SUPP is funded by the Province as benefits payments fall due. The benefits and contribution rates are set, and may be amended, by the Plan Sponsor through an Order-in-Council.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Each judge is required to contribute 7% of their salary into the Plan, by way of deduction from the judge’s salary, up to the earlier occurrence of either meeting their basic service requirement or attaining 70 years of age.

The Province ensures that, in respect of each calendar year of service, the portion of each judge's pension contributions that exceeds the dollar limit for pension plan contributions under the Income Tax Act is contributed to the RCA.

The amount to be contributed in a year by the Province is based on an actuarial valuation and subject to the limits set out in the Income Tax Act and its regulations.

## **PENSION PAYMENTS**

A pension payment is available based on the age and the number of years of full-time service for which a member has credit upon ceasing to hold office and is based on the salary of a full-time judge of the highest judicial rank held by the member while in office. The member is entitled to these payments during their lifetime. These payments are sourced from the three components as follows:

### **RPP**

An amount equal to 2% of the judge's average salary, indexed in accordance with the Income Tax Regulations, for their final three years of service multiplied by the judge's years of service up to the defined benefit limit or maximum benefit limit.

### **RCA**

An amount equal to 2% of the judge's average salary, indexed in accordance with the Income Tax Regulations, for their final three years of service multiplied by the judge's years of service without regard to the defined benefit limit or maximum benefit limit, reduced by the RPP amount.

### **SUPP**

An amount payable to the judge if the pension determined without regard to the defined benefit limit or maximum benefit limit is greater than the amount that is actually paid to the judge under the RPP and RCA plans.

## **DISABILITY PENSION PAYMENTS**

A disability pension is available at age 65 for members with a minimum of five years of full-time service who are unable to serve in office due to injury or chronic illness. The annual amount of the pension is the amount that would be payable if the judge had continued in office on a full-time basis until the judge attained 75 years of age and if the pension were determined without regard to the defined benefit limit or maximum benefit limit, reduced by the amount that is actually payable to the judge under the RPP and RCA.

## **SURVIVOR ALLOWANCES**

A survivor allowance equal to 60% of the qualifying judge's pension payment is paid to the spouse during the spouse's lifetime or to children who meet the age, custody, education, or disability criteria defined by the Regulation.

## **DEATH BENEFITS**

A death refund can be payable to the personal representative of a member where there is no further entitlement to a survivor allowance. The amount of the refund is equal to the member's contributions to the Plan plus interest, less entitlements already paid out.

## **TERMINATION PAYMENTS**

Upon ceasing to hold office for a reason other than death, participants not eligible to receive pension payments are entitled to receive a refund of their contributions to the Plan plus interest.

## **ESCALATION OF BENEFITS FROM THE PLAN**

### **Judges retired before June 1, 2007**

The annual inflationary increase for judges who retired before June 1, 2007, is based on changes in the Average Weekly Earnings published by Statistics Canada and subject to a maximum of 7% in any one year and is effective on April 1st every year. In addition, the pensions are adjusted based on the salary increases of sitting judges as recommended by the Provincial Judges Remuneration Commission.

### **Judges retired on or after June 1, 2007**

The annual inflationary increase for judges who were appointed before June 1, 2007, who retired on or after June 1, 2007, and elected to be paid under the Plan provisions effective on that date is based on changes in the Consumer Price Index and is effective on January 1st every year. The same annual inflationary increase is applicable upon retirement for those judges appointed to office on or after June 1, 2007, with no available election.

## **Note 4: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

### **BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans.

In accordance with Section 4600, "Pension Plans", of the CPA Canada Handbook - Accounting, Canadian Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises in Part II of the CPA Canada Handbook - Accounting have been chosen for accounting policies that do not relate to the investment portfolio or pension obligations to the extent that those standards do not conflict with the requirements of Section 4600.

All amounts are expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars, unless expressed otherwise.

### **USE OF ESTIMATES**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts on the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The most significant estimates affecting the financial statements relate to the determination of pension obligations (Note 13) and the fair values of the RPP's Level 3 investments (Note 5b).

### **INVESTMENTS**

Investments are stated at their fair values. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Fair value of financial instruments is determined as follows:

- i. Cash held at custodian is recorded at cost, which approximates fair value.
- ii. Short-term money market investments such as treasury bills are recorded at cost, with accrued interest or amortized discount or premium, which approximates fair value.
- iii. Fixed income instruments and bonds are valued at quoted market prices where available. Where there are no quoted prices on an active market, fair value is determined using a variety of pricing methodologies including evaluated bid-ask pricing, evaluated broker pricing, discounted cash flows based on current market yields for comparable securities (e.g., similar credit ratings, duration, etc.), or calculated using discounted cash flows based on market yield curves and credit spreads of the issuer.

- iv. Pooled funds are valued using the most recently available financial information including net asset values or estimates provided by the fund managers and general partners as of December 31, 2023.
- v. Exchange-traded derivatives are valued at quoted closing market prices if actively traded. Over-the-counter derivative instruments for which there is no active market are valued using appropriate valuation models based on industry-recognized methodologies. The inputs used in the valuation models depend on the type of the derivative and the nature of the underlying instrument and are specific to the instrument being valued. Inputs can include, but are not limited to, foreign exchange rates, spot prices and correlation. Refer to Note 5e for currency forward contracts held by RPP.

### **NET INVESTMENT INCOME**

Investment transactions are recorded on the trade date. Investment income includes interest income, distributions from pooled funds, realized gains or losses, and changes in unrealized gains or losses. Interest is recognized on an accrual basis. Distributions from pooled funds are recognized when declared by the fund managers and general partners. Realized gains or losses are recognized when the Plan has transferred to the purchaser the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the investment, the purchaser has made a substantial commitment demonstrating its intent to honour its obligation, and the collection of any consideration is reasonably assured. Change in unrealized gains or losses are recognized when there is a change in the difference between the fair value and cost of the investments held.

### **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND RELATED FEES**

Investment management fees, transaction costs and other investment-related fees are recognized on an accrual basis and paid by their respective components.

### **FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION**

Foreign currency transactions impacting income and expenses are translated into Canadian dollars at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. The fair values of investments and cash balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates in effect at year-end. Realized exchange gains and losses from investment transactions are included in realized gains and losses at the time of sale of the investments. Unrealized exchange gains and losses from investment transactions are included in the change in unrealized gains and losses on investments.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions due at the year-end are recorded as contributions receivable. The Province's funding contributions to the Plan are made in accordance with the funding requirements as specified by the most recently filed actuarial funding valuation. The Province's funding payments for the RPP included special contributions for an unfunded liability of \$17,190 (2022 - \$nil) as per the actuarial funding valuation. The PJPP is not subject to the Pension Benefits Act and, as such, there is no minimum required funding contribution by the Province.

## **BENEFITS PAID AND TERMINATION PAYMENTS**

Retirement pension payments, commuted value transfers, refunds to former members, and transfers to other pension plans are recorded when paid.

## **PENSION ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES**

Pension administration expenses are recognized on an accrual basis. Expenses applicable to the RPP and RCA are paid by their respective components. All expenses applicable to the SUPP are paid by the Province.

## **INCOME TAX STATUS**

The RPP and RCA are registered pension plans, as defined by the Income Tax Act and, accordingly, are not subject to income taxes.

## **PENSION OBLIGATION**

Pension obligations are determined based on an actuarial valuation prepared by an independent firm of actuaries using an actuarial valuation report prepared for funding purposes. This valuation uses the projected benefit cost method pro-rated based on service and management's best estimate of various economic and demographic assumptions. The year-end valuation of pension obligations is based on data extrapolated to the current financial statement year-end date.

## **NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

Amendments to Section 4600, Pension Plans were issued in December 2022 and will be effective for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2024. The amendments are not expected to have any impact on the Plan's financial statements.



## Note 5: Investments

The RPP's investments managed by IMCO consist of the following:

As at December 31 (in thousands of dollars)	2023		2022	
	Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value
<b>Cash at custodian</b>	\$ 1,159	\$ 1,159	\$ 1,015	\$ 1,015
<b>Money-market investments</b>	334,895	334,895	399,465	399,465
<b>Fixed income</b>				
Canada	32,027	32,712	–	–
Global	16,997	16,918	–	–
	49,024	49,630	–	–
<b>Pooled funds</b>				
Global Equity	11,642	11,558	–	–
Global Credit	4,500	4,500	–	–
	16,142	16,058	–	–
<b>Total investments</b>	401,220	401,742	400,480	400,480
<b>Investment-related assets</b>				
Pooled fund units receivable (Note 5d)	12,000	12,000	–	–
Derivatives receivables	–	21	–	–
<b>Total investment-related assets</b>	12,000	12,021	–	–
<b>Investment-related liabilities</b>				
Pending trades	7,500	7,500	–	–
<b>Total investment-related liabilities</b>	7,500	7,500	–	–
<b>Total net investments</b>	\$ 405,720	\$ 406,263	\$ 400,480	\$ 400,480

### a) INVESTMENT ASSET MIX

The RPP's Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures ("SIP&P") was amended and effective on September 21, 2023. The SIP&P was updated for changes in the policy asset mix, risk, environmental, social, and governance factors and general provisions. The Policy Asset Mix ("PAM") does not allocate any assets to pooled funds as an asset class, although pooled funds are used to achieve allocations to the investment categories indicated above.

The RPP's actual and target investment asset mix is summarized below as at December 31:

	2023		2022		2023 PAM Range
	Asset Allocation % Total Plan	Asset Allocation % Target	Asset Allocation % Total Plan	Asset Allocation % Target	
<b>Asset categories<sup>1</sup></b>					
Cash and money market	83.7%	2.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%–7.0%
Fixed income					
Long-term	8.1%	21.5%	–	–	16.5%–26.5%
Inflation-linked	4.2%	21.5%	–	–	16.5%–26.5%
Credit	1.1%	10.0%	–	–	5.0%–15.0%
Public equities	2.9%	17.5%	–	–	12.5%–22.5%
Real estate	0.0%	10.0%	–	–	5.0%–15.0%
Infrastructure	0.0%	10.0%	–	–	5.0%–15.0%
Private equities	0.0%	7.5%	–	–	2.5%–12.5%
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

1 The asset categories and asset allocation reflect the allocation of derivative positions, pooled funds, investment-related assets and investment-related liabilities.

At December 31, 2022, the asset mix of the Plan's investments was invested in cash and money market instruments. To mitigate the potential regret risk with transitioning these assets to the RPP's long-term asset mix, the transition will be implemented gradually. In addition, due to illiquid nature of assets such as Real estate, Infrastructure, and Private equities, actual allocations may be above or below target allocations and reaching these target allocations may take several years, during which time actual allocations may be outside the PAM minimum and maximum levels. Such deviations will not be considered violations of the SIP&P provided they are consistent with the transition plan. For greater clarity, the minimum and maximum ranges in the above table are intended to apply only once the asset mix transition has been completed.

At December 31, 2023, the allocation of all assets was outside the ranges as specified in the SIP&P, which is permitted as described above.

## **b) FAIR VALUE HIERARCHY**

Canadian accounting standards for pension plans require disclosure of a three-level hierarchy for fair value measurements based on the transparency of inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability as of the financial statement date. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1: Fair value is based on quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Level 1 assets and liabilities generally include equity securities traded in an active exchange market.

Level 2: Fair value is based on observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted market prices for similar (but not identical) assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted market prices for identical assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, and other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities. Level 2 assets and liabilities include debt securities with quoted prices that are traded less frequently than exchange-traded instruments and derivative contracts whose value is determined using a pricing model with inputs that are observable in the market or can be derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data. This category generally includes mutual and pooled funds; hedge funds; Government of Canada, provincial and other government bonds; Canadian corporate bonds; and certain derivative contracts.

Level 3: Fair value is based on non-observable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities. This category generally includes investments in real estate properties, infrastructure and private equity, and securities that have liquidity restrictions.

The following tables present the level within the fair value hierarchy for investments and derivatives, excluding pending trades and other Investment-related assets for which a fair value hierarchy is not required.

As at December 31, 2023 (in thousands of dollars)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Fair Value
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Cash at custodian	\$ 1,159	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 1,159
Short-term investments	–	334,895	–	334,895
Fixed income	–	49,630	–	49,630
Pooled funds	–	11,558	4,500	16,058
Currency forwards	–	21	–	21
	<b>\$ 1,159</b>	<b>\$ 396,104</b>	<b>\$ 4,500</b>	<b>\$ 401,763</b>

As at December 31, 2022 (in thousands of dollars)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Fair Value
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Cash at custodian	\$ 1,015	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 1,015
Short-term investments	–	399,465	–	399,465
	<b>\$ 1,015</b>	<b>\$ 399,465</b>	<b>\$ –</b>	<b>\$ 400,480</b>

There were no transfers between Level 1 and 2 during the years ended December 31, 2023, and December 31, 2022.

### c) LEVEL 3 INVESTMENT RECONCILIATION

The following tables present a reconciliation of Level 3 assets measured at fair value.

(in thousands of dollars)	Fair Value as at January 1, 2023	Net Transfers In/(Out)	Acquisitions	Dispositions	Fair Value Changes	Fair Value as at December 31, 2023
<b>Pooled funds</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500

There were no transfers into or out of Level 3 during the years ended December 31, 2023, and December 31, 2022.

### d) POOLED FUND UNITS RECEIVABLE

The Plan has pooled fund units receivable of \$12,000 in the IMCO Infrastructure LP as at December 31, 2023, which was settled on January 2, 2024.

### e) DERIVATIVES

Derivatives are financial or commodity contracts, whose market price, value, delivery obligations, payment obligations or settlement obligations are derived from, referenced to or based on, an underlying interest that may include stocks, bonds, commodities, currencies, interest rates and market indices. Derivative strategies can be implemented using a wide range of instruments including, but not limited to, forwards, futures, swaps and options.

Derivatives may be used for various purposes including to:

- hedge (fully or partly) any investment risk, including market, interest rate, credit, liquidity, or currency risk;
- alter the risk and return profile of investments, replicate investments in the underlying assets or groups of assets (e.g., indices) so as to achieve some advantage of lower cost, transactional ease, or market exposure;
- improve the efficiency of achieving investment objectives; or
- create unique risk and return payoffs.

The Plan does not use derivatives with the goal of providing an additional source of return through active management or to generate total portfolio leverage unless the use of total portfolio leverage is explicitly incorporated into the Policy Asset Mix.

The Plan uses currency forward contracts to modify currency exposure for both passive and active hedging. Currency forward contracts are negotiated agreements between two parties to exchange a notional amount of one currency for another at an exchange rate specified at origination of the contract, with settlement at a specified future date.

### Derivative notional and fair values

The following schedule summarizes the notional amounts and fair values of the Plan's directly held derivative positions.

As at December 31 (in thousands of dollars)	2023			2022		
	Notional Value	Fair Value		Notional Value	Fair Value	
		Assets	Liabilities		Assets	Liabilities
<b>Currency forwards</b>	\$ 16,983	\$ 21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 16,983	\$ 21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

### Derivative notional values by term to maturity

The maturities of the Plan's notional values for the Plan's derivative positions are as follows:

As at December 31 (in thousands of dollars)	2023								2022	
	< 1 year	≥ 1-3 years	> 3-5 years	Total	< 1 year	≥ 1-3 years	> 3-5 years	Total		
<b>Currency forwards</b>	\$ 16,983	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,983	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

### Note 6: Refundable Tax Asset

Contributions made to the RCA, as well as investment income and net capital gains earned within the RCA, net of distributions, are taxed at a 50% rate under the Income Tax Act. New contributions are taxable at the time the contribution is made. Investment returns earned within the RCA component are assessed as at December 31 each year. The remitted tax amounts are held by the Canada Revenue Agency as a non-interest-bearing deposit. These tax amounts are refundable when distributions are made from the RCA component of the Plan to the beneficiaries of the retirement compensation arrangement.

## Note 7: Net Investment Income

The RPP's net investment income is made up of the following:

For the year ended December 31 (in thousands of dollars)	2023			2022		
	Income <sup>1</sup>	Fair Value Changes <sup>2</sup>	Net Investment Income	Income <sup>1</sup>	Fair Value Changes <sup>2</sup>	Net Investment Income
<b>Short-term investments</b>	\$ 19,008	\$ (157)	\$ 18,851	\$ 7,559	\$ (1,003)	\$ 6,556
<b>Fixed income</b>						
Canada	68	700	768	–	–	–
Global	5	(79)	(74)	–	–	–
	73	621	694	–	–	–
<b>Pooled funds</b>						
Global Equity	102	60	162	–	–	–
	102	60	162	–	–	–
<b>Derivatives</b>	–	461	461	–	–	–
<b>Total investment income</b>	\$ 19,183	\$ 985	\$ 20,168	\$ 7,559	\$ (1,003)	\$ 6,556

1 Income includes interest on short-term investments, fixed income, and distributions from pooled funds.

2 Includes net realized gains of \$442 and change in net unrealized gains of \$543 (2022: realized losses of \$1,003).

## Note 8: Pension Administration Expenses

The following is a summary of the expenses incurred by the Plan related to services provided by Ontario Pension Board.

For the year ended December 31 (in thousands of dollars)	2023 RPP	2023 RCA	2023 SUPP	2022 RPP	2022 RCA	2022 SUPP
Pension administration and IT	\$ 516	\$ 516	\$ 362	\$ 526	\$ 526	\$ 372
Insurance	43	43	43	44	44	44
Actuarial fees	26	26	53	29	29	29
Legal expenses	47	31	38	45	45	45
IT external services	–	–	–	1	1	1
Pension payroll processing charges	4	4	4	4	4	4
Expenses paid by the Province <sup>1</sup>	–	–	(500)	–	–	(495)
<b>Total pension administration expenses</b>	<b>\$ 636</b>	<b>\$ 620</b>	<b>\$ –</b>	<b>\$ 649</b>	<b>\$ 649</b>	<b>\$ –</b>

1 The SUPP administration expenses are fully paid by the Province (Note 14).



## Note 9: Investment Management Expenses

The following is a summary of the expenses incurred by the RPP related to services provided by IMCO. The RPP pays its share of IMCO's expenses on a cost recovery basis. These costs are funded through cash held in custody with CIBC Mellon.

For the year ended December 31  
(in thousands of dollars)

	2023	2022
Management fees paid to IMCO	\$ 127	\$ 70
External investment management fees	19	–
Implementation fees	40	41
Custodial fees	20	14
Investment transaction costs	4	–
<b>Total investment management expenses</b>	<b>\$ 210</b>	<b>\$ 125</b>

## Note 10: Risk Management

The Plan is subject to financial risks as a result of its investing activities that could impact its cash flows, income, and assets available to meet benefit obligations. These risks include market risk (including interest rate risk, foreign currency risk and other price risk), credit risk, liquidity risk, and others as applicable.

The Board has appointed IMCO as the sole and exclusive investment manager for the investment assets of the RPP and RCA. IMCO has the full authority, acting in accordance with its statutory duty of care under the Investment Management Corporation of Ontario Act, 2015, the provisions of the SIP&P and the Investment Management Agreement, to manage all aspects of the investments of the RPP and RCA.

### MARKET RISK

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of an investment will fluctuate because of changes in market factors. Market risk is comprised of the following:

**Interest rate risk** – Interest rate risk refers to the effect on the fair value of the Plan's assets and liabilities due to fluctuations in market interest rates. The value of the Plan's investments is affected by changes in nominal and real interest rates. Pension liabilities are exposed to fluctuations in long-term interest rates and inflation.

### **Management**

The Plan has established an asset mix policy that balances interest-rate-sensitive investments with other investments. RPP's fixed income investments have direct exposure to interest rate risk. Duration and weighting for the fixed income portfolio are actively managed.

### **Measurement**

Effective duration is a measure of the sensitivity of the price of a financial instrument to a change in interest rates. Given the effective duration of 1.72 years at December 31, 2023 and a total net fair value of \$385,684, a parallel shift in the interest rate curve of +/-1% would result in an approximate impact of +/- \$6,918 on net investments with all other variables held constant. In practice, actual results may differ materially from this sensitivity analysis. The Plan did not have significant exposure to interest rate risk as at December 31, 2022.

**Currency risk** - Currency exposure arises from the Plan holding foreign currency denominated investments and entering contracts that provide exposure to currencies other than the Canadian dollar. Fluctuations in the value of the Canadian dollar against these foreign currencies can have an impact on the fair value of investments.

### **Management**

Currency risk is managed by IMCO through currency hedging. Implementation of any currency hedging strategy is accomplished through the use of instruments such as forwards, futures, options, and swaps.

### **Measurement**

As at December 31, 2023, the impact to the Plan's net assets available for benefits of a 5% absolute change in foreign exchange rates relative to the Canadian dollar are as follows:

As at December 31, 2023 (in thousands of dollars)	Gross Exposure	Currency Contracts Receivable	Currency Contracts Payable	Net Exposure	Impact of +/- 5% Change
U.S. dollar	\$ 16,926	\$ -	\$ (16,962)	\$ (36)	+/- 2
Total foreign currency	16,926	-	(16,962)	(36)	+/- 2
Canadian dollar	389,316	16,983	-	406,299	-
	\$ 406,242	\$ 16,983	\$ (16,962)	\$ 406,263	+/- 2

As at December 31, 2022, the RPP's investments and cash were all in Canadian dollars and therefore not exposed to foreign currency risk.

**Other price risk** - Other price risk is the risk that the fair value of an investment will fluctuate because of changes in market prices other than those arising from foreign currency or interest rate risk, whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual investment or factors affecting all securities traded in the market.

**Management**

IMCO manages other price risk through diversification and regular monitoring of the performance of the Plan against approved benchmarks.

**Measurement**

An absolute change in the fair value of the Plan's investments that are exposed to other price risk will have a direct proportional impact on the fair value of the investments. The Plan's investments in pooled funds holding public equities have the most significant exposure to other price risk. As at December 31, 2023, the impact of a 10% absolute change in the price of an investment, holding all other variables constant, is 10% of the net exposure of the impacted investment, as follows:

(in thousands of dollars)	Stock Market Benchmark	Change in Price Index	Change in Net Assets as at	
			<b>December 31, 2023</b>	December 31, 2022
Public Equity	MSCI ACWI Net Total Return Index	+/- 10%	<b>+/- \$ 1,156</b>	+/- \$ 0

The sensitivity analysis is performed using the total Plan actual investment asset mix weights summarized in Note 5a as at December 31, 2023.

## **CREDIT AND COUNTERPARTY RISK**

Credit risk is the risk of loss resulting from a borrower's failure to repay or meet contractual obligations. The Plan is exposed to credit risk through investments in fixed income instruments as there is a risk of default. Counterparty risk is the risk of loss arising from a counterparty defaulting on its obligations, the insolvency of a counterparty, or the risk of a market decline resulting from the deterioration in the credit quality of a counterparty. The Plan is exposed to counterparty risk through investments in derivatives.

### ***Management***

IMCO manages credit risk by creating a diversified portfolio of investments and employing a multi-sector strategy. In creating a diversified portfolio, IMCO will invest according to a risk strategy outlining specified target allocation ranges by risk strategy (i.e., investment grade), geographical focus and investment vehicle.

In mitigating counterparty risk, IMCO initiates counterparty transactions with parties on its approved counterparty list, which meet a minimum credit rating requirement. IMCO is responsible for monitoring the credit ratings of counterparties and reviewing those who suffer a downgrade.

Counterparty risk from derivatives is managed through due diligence on potential counterparties, use of appropriate legal documentation such as International Swaps and Derivatives Association ("ISDA") master agreements, by imposing counterparty risk exposure limits, or by the use of a Credit Support Annex ("CSA") under an ISDA master agreement. IMCO maintains and reviews a list of approved counterparties which, at a minimum, have a long-term credit rating of A or higher as rated by S&P (or equivalent Moody's or Fitch long-term rating) and a short-term rating of A1 or higher as rated by S&P (equivalent Moody's or Fitch short-term rating). IMCO also reviews counterparties who suffer a credit rating downgrade, even if they continue to meet the minimum credit ratings noted and maintains and reviews counterparty exposure limits, considering current exposure, with limits commensurate with the credit rating of the counterparty. See Note 11 for details of collateral held or pledged pertaining to derivatives.

### ***Measurement***

Counterparty and credit risk exposure is measured by the fair value of contractual obligations less any collateral or margin received from the counterparties. The use of credit ratings allows the Plan to assess the creditworthiness of counterparties using an independent source. As at December 31, 2023, the Plan's greatest credit exposure to a single securities issuer was with the Government of Canada in the form of interest-bearing securities for \$183,837 (2022 - with the Government of Canada for \$399,465).

The credit risk exposure, without considering any collateral held, is as follows:

As at December 31 (in thousands of dollars)	2023 Total Risk Exposure	2022 Total Risk Exposure
<b>Credit risk</b>		
<b>Fixed income</b>		
AAA	\$ 26,920	\$ —
AA	22,172	—
A	538	—
Total fixed income	\$ 49,630	\$ —
<b>Short-term investments</b>		
AAA	175,703	399,465
AA	34,714	—
A	124,478	—
Total short-term investments	\$ 334,895	\$ 399,465
<b>Counterparty risk</b>		
<b>Derivative assets</b>		
AA	15	—
A	6	—
Total derivative assets	\$ 21	\$ —

## LIQUIDITY RISK

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Plan has insufficient cash flows to meet its pension obligations and operating expenses as they become due. The typical cash requirements of the Plan are in the form of monthly retirement benefit payments as well as periodic termination and other benefit payments and expenses.

### **Management**

The Plan manages liquidity risk by maintaining a cash reserve and performing regular cash flow projections to ensure the Plan can meet obligations. Most cash requirements are typically met through member and Plan Sponsor contributions. Additional cash requirements can be met through investment liquidity. IMCO manages liquidity risk by determining how much liquid assets should be maintained, the portion of liquid assets to be held as cash, day-to-day management of cash inflows and outflows, monitoring and reporting of measures including a liquidity coverage ratio and acknowledging and responding to crisis environment conditions. An IMCO liquidity committee is also responsible for overseeing a crisis environment plan and approving any breach remediation plans. A crisis environment condition is triggered by a drop in the S&P 500 of 10% (USD) over the prior week in conjunction with a drop of 15% over the prior month or as declared by the liquidity committee during periods of significant market stress.

As at December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Plan's investments are mostly in Government of Canada treasury bills and provincial bonds, which are highly liquid assets.

### **Note 11: Collateral**

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the RPP had no collateral pledged or received and no security lending agreements.

### **Note 12: Commitments and Guarantees**

As of December 31, 2023, there were \$1,735 in unfunded commitments (2022 - \$nil).

### **Note 13: Pension Obligation**

#### **FUNDING VALUATION**

An actuarial valuation was prepared for the RPP as at January 1, 2023 by Aon plc, the Plan's appointed actuary, for the primary purpose of establishing contribution requirements in accordance with the Income Tax Act. The valuation was prepared in accordance with Ontario Regulation 290/13. The valuation was prepared based on membership data as at December 31, 2022. The next actuarial valuation for the purpose of developing funding requirements must be prepared with an effective date no later than December 31, 2026.

The valuation determined the maximum eligible contribution to the RPP under the Income Tax Act. The RPP is not subject to the provisions of the Pension Benefits Act. As such, there is no minimum required contribution to the RPP. The valuation was prepared using the projected unit credit cost method. As at January 1, 2023, the liability associated with the RPP was \$419,993.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT VALUATION**

For the purposes of these financial statements, Aon, the Plan's actuary, used the member data as at December 31, 2022 on the basis of the accounting methodology required by the CPA Canada Handbook - Accounting, Section 4600 and extrapolated those liabilities using current service cost and actual benefit payments to December 31, 2023. The obligations were determined using the projected unit credit prorated on service method. The total RPP, RCA, and SUPP pension obligations under this method for pension benefits payable under the Plan was \$1,353,830 (December 31, 2022 - \$1,395,060). This obligation is allocated and presented for each component of the Plan in the statements of financial position.

The indexation loss is due to the cost-of-living adjustment for January 2024 of 4.8%. Net experience losses in the RPP are primarily due to an Income Tax Act maximum pension increase greater than expected. Net experience losses in the RCA and SUPP are primarily due to salary increases greater than expected. The net impact of change in assumptions is the effect of losses from an expected cost-of-living adjustment of 2.5% effective January 2025 offset by gains from an increase of 0.95% in the discount rate for RPP and an increase of 0.6% in the discount rate for RCA and SUPP.

Significant assumptions used in the financial statement valuation for the Plan are shown below.

<b>Assumptions</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Economic Assumptions</b>		
Increase in Consumer Price Index (Inflation)		
2023	–	6.30%
2024	<b>4.80%</b>	2.00%
2025	<b>2.50%</b>	2.00%
2026 and thereafter	<b>2.00%</b>	2.00%
Increase in Income Tax Act maximum pension limit	<b>2.75%</b>	2.75%
Increase in salaries	<b>3.00%</b>	3.00%
Nominal discount rate		
RPP	<b>4.75%</b>	3.80%
RCA and SUPP	<b>4.40%</b>	3.80%

### **Demographic Assumptions**

Mortality table	2004 Public Sector Canadian Pensioners' Mortality Table with generational projection using mortality improvement scale MI-2017.
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The discount rate for RPP has been set based on the Plan's investment policy and its funding policy and objectives. The discount rate for RCA and SUPP has been set based on the monthly average of the 20-year and 30-year Ontario Financing Authority borrowing rate for calendar years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.



## **Note 14: Related Party Transactions**

The Government of Ontario is the sponsor of the Plan. As at December 31, 2023, RPP held Province of Ontario bonds valued at \$10,119 (2022 - \$nil).

As the Plan administrator, the Board is assisted by OPB in carrying out its responsibilities. OPB administers payroll and benefits for Plan members and assists the Government of Ontario in carrying out its responsibilities in respect of the SUPP. OPB provides these services on a cost recovery basis. The SUPP administration expenses are fully paid by the Province (Note 8).

IMCO manages the RPP's investment assets. The RPP pays its share of IMCO's operating expenditures on a cost recovery basis (Note 9). Custodial fees are paid by IMCO on the Plan's behalf.

## **Note 15: Capital Management**

The Plan defines its capital as the funding surpluses or deficits determined periodically through the funding valuations prepared by the independent actuary. The actuary's funding valuation is used to measure the long-term health of the Plan. The Plan Sponsor determines the level of funding payments. Any resulting deficit is guaranteed by the Plan Sponsor. There have been no changes in what the Plan considers to be its capital.

The RPP's SIP&P was amended and effective on September 21, 2023. The SIP&P also provides guidance with respect to the investment of the RPP's assets (Note 5a) to assist with the management of any funding excesses or shortfalls. The RPP's investment strategies and its individual portfolios have an objective to generate returns over rolling periods of five years or longer, as may be appropriate for a particular strategy, that meet or exceed the returns of relevant benchmarks. The expected long-term annualized nominal rate of return on the policy asset mix is 5.7% per annum, net of investment-related expenses, including investment management fees.