



## Concordia University Part-time Faculty Association

Association des professeur(e)s à temps partiel de l'Université Concordia

# **RETIREMENT PLANNING FOR PART-TIME FACULTY**

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*CUPFA gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contribution to the writing of this document of Jean Freed, MBA, President of Financial Vision and representative of Peak Investment Services Inc. Without her input this document would not be as focused or informative.*

**Disclaimer:** This document was prepared by CUPFA and not by Concordia University. It may be updated from time to time. The contents of this document contain the best information we were able to acquire at the time of writing, but rules and definitions may change over time and links to websites change. Readers should confirm all information and acquire professional advice before acting on any information contained in this document. CUPFA is not responsible for any financial decisions that you make.

We recommend you also read our companion document "**Pension Plan for Part-Time Faculty**" which you will also find on the CUPFA website.

For information or comments on the contents of this document contact your CUPFA Treasurer, June Riley, at [jrcupfa@gmail.com](mailto:jrcupfa@gmail.com).

Prepared: 3 November 2017

## **INTRODUCTION**

***The average Canadian is expected to reach 80-85 years of age.  
Within couples there is a 30% chance of one spouse reaching the age of 90.  
Life expectancy advances every year with medical breakthroughs.  
This means retirement can easily last for 20 to 25 years or longer.***

Putting in place a sound retirement plan is the essential first step towards achieving the retirement lifestyle you want - and ***it is never too late (or too early) to get started.***

As a rule of thumb, experts recommend your retirement income should be roughly 70 to 80% of your pre-retirement income in order to maintain your standard of living. But this may not be accurate depending on your assets, savings and projected sources of income, and the lifestyle you want to achieve when you retire. ***It's a matter of determining where you are now, where you want to be in the future, and how to get there.***

### **Step 1: Where are you now?**

To determine your current financial status, first determine your net worth. Net worth equals your assets (the value of things you own including savings and investments) minus your liabilities (the total of what you owe, including any financial commitments you have). Net worth calculations should be updated annually, since your circumstances constantly change.

### **Step 2: Decide how much you will need when you retire.**

This depends on what type of retirement lifestyle you have in mind and what sources of income you can count on. It's a good idea to project the income and expenses you will have during retirement. To help you, a budget planning sheet follows right after this page. It will be available on the CUPFA website as an Excel spreadsheet so that you can work on it whenever you like.

### **Step 3: Deduct from what you will need, all sources of retirement income**

The common sources of retirement income are:

- Quebec or Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security and possibly Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Private Pension - e.g. Pension Plan for Employees of Concordia
- Your savings - hopefully in either an RRSP or TFSA or both
- Other personal assets

***It is strongly recommended to acquire professional financial advice to plan your retirement.*** You can get free professional financial advice from your bank, investment company or life insurance broker, or you can pay for professional financial advice from private investment firms. Sometimes you get what you pay for. ***Research shows clients earn 20 to 40% more on their savings when they work with a professional financial advisor.***

## Your Budget

### Current Monthly Expenses:

#### Housing:

Rent, mortgage	
Property taxes	
Maintenance	
Insurance	

#### Utilities:

Hydro	
Gas	
Sewer & water	
Phone(s)	
Internet	
TV cable/satellite	

#### Car:

Loan, lease payment	
Insurance	
Gas	
Repairs	

#### Other Expenses:

Groceries	
Restaurants	
Personal clothing	
<i>Clothing for work</i>	
Toiletries	
Medical	
Dental	
<i>Travel to work</i>	
Entertainment	
Magazines, books etc.	
Hobbies	
Vacation/Travel	
Gifts	
Donations	
Miscellaneous	

#### Personal Insurance:

Health insurance	
Disability insurance	
Life insurance	

#### Financial:

Personal loans	
Bank fees	
Credit cards	
Savings	
<i>Company pension contributions</i>	
<i>Stock purchase plan</i>	

#### Taxes:

Income tax	
CPP and EI premiums	

#### TOTAL:

### Monthly Expenses after Retirement:

#### Housing:

Rent, mortgage	
Property taxes	
Maintenance	
Insurance	

#### Utilities:

Hydro	
Gas	
Sewer & water	
Phone(s)	
Internet	
TV cable/satellite	

#### Car:

Loan, lease payment	
Insurance	
Gas	
Repairs	

#### Other Expenses:

Groceries	
Restaurants	
Personal clothing	
Toiletries	
Medical	
Dental	
Entertainment	
Magazines, books etc.	
Hobbies	
Vacation/Travel	
Gifts	
Donations	
Miscellaneous	

#### Personal Insurance:

Health insurance	
Disability insurance	
Life insurance	

#### Financial:

Personal loans	
Bank fees	
Credit cards	
Savings	

#### Taxes:

Income tax	
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#### TOTAL:

*This page will be available as a separate Excel spreadsheet at [www.cupfa.org](http://www.cupfa.org)*

## Projecting Forward - The Rule of 72:

Because prices go up every year, you have to go beyond estimating what your expenses will be in today's dollars. You have to project what your costs will be when you retire.

The Rule of 72 allows the investor to quickly and efficiently answer two questions:

- How long will it take me to double my money if I earn X% interest?  
(or how long will it take my costs to double if inflation is X%)
- What return must I earn if I wish to double my money in X years?

### Using the Rule of 72 When the Interest or Inflation Rate is Known

Suppose you want to know how long it will take to double your money if you can earn 12%. Just divide the magic number 72 by the interest rate. The answer is 6 years.

$$\frac{72}{12\%} = 6 \text{ years to double your money provided you can earn } 12\%$$

### Using the Rule of 72 When the Number of Years is Known

The Rule of 72 can also be used backwards. Suppose you want to know what percentage you need to earn on your money in order to double your money in 4 years. Again just divide 72 by the number of years and the answer is 18%.

$$\frac{72}{4 \text{ years}} = 18\% \text{ needed to double your money in 4 years}$$

### Projecting Inflation - your retirement expenses using the Rule of 72:

Suppose you calculated on the previous page that you would need \$3,000 per month if you were to retire today.

Assuming an inflation rate of 3%:  $\frac{72}{3\%} =$  in 24 years your costs will double to \$6,000.

So if you are planning to retire at age 65 and you are now 41 years old, your monthly costs will be \$6,000. There are more precise formulas that can be used as shown below. (Multiply by 1+ the inflation rate raised to the power of the number of years.)

### **How much would \$3,000 in expenses grow to if you plan to retire at age 65**

assuming 3% inflation per year (the superscripts = number of years to retirement):

If you are 60 years old today:  $\$3,000 \times 1.03^5 = \$3,478$

If you are 50 years old today:  $\$3,000 \times 1.03^{15} = \$4,674$

If you are 40 years old today:  $\$3,000 \times 1.03^{25} = \$6,282$

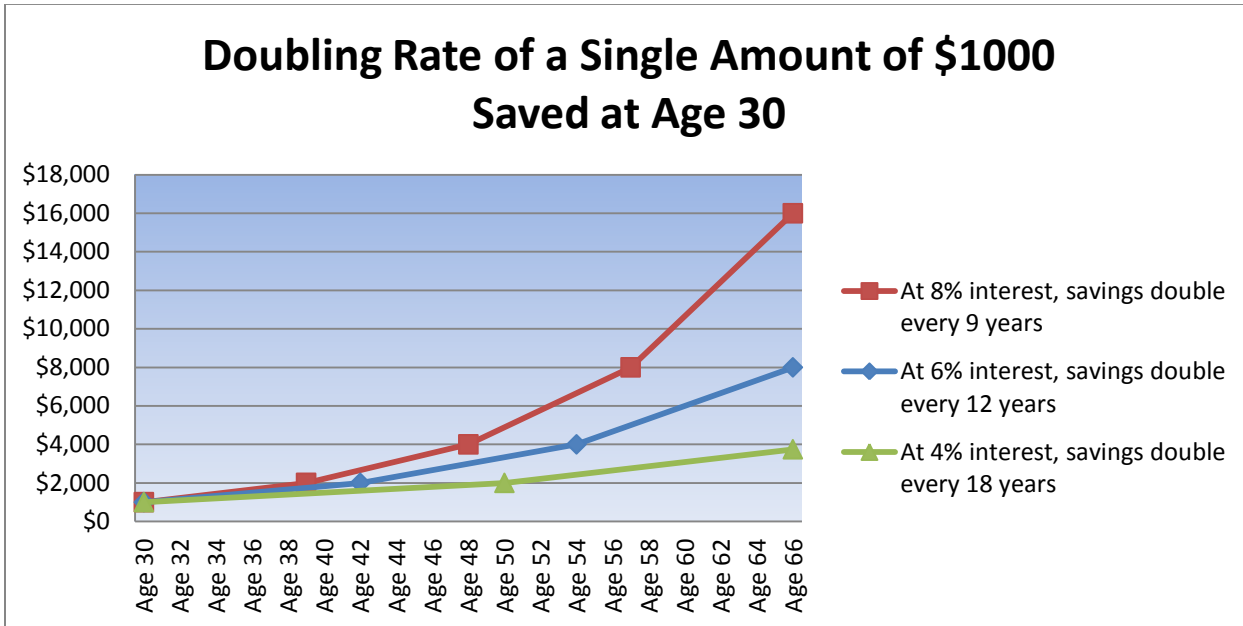
If you are 30 years old today:  $\$3,000 \times 1.03^{35} = \$8,442$

And of course costs will continue to rise after you retire, so you have to plan some way to have your income grow once you retire.

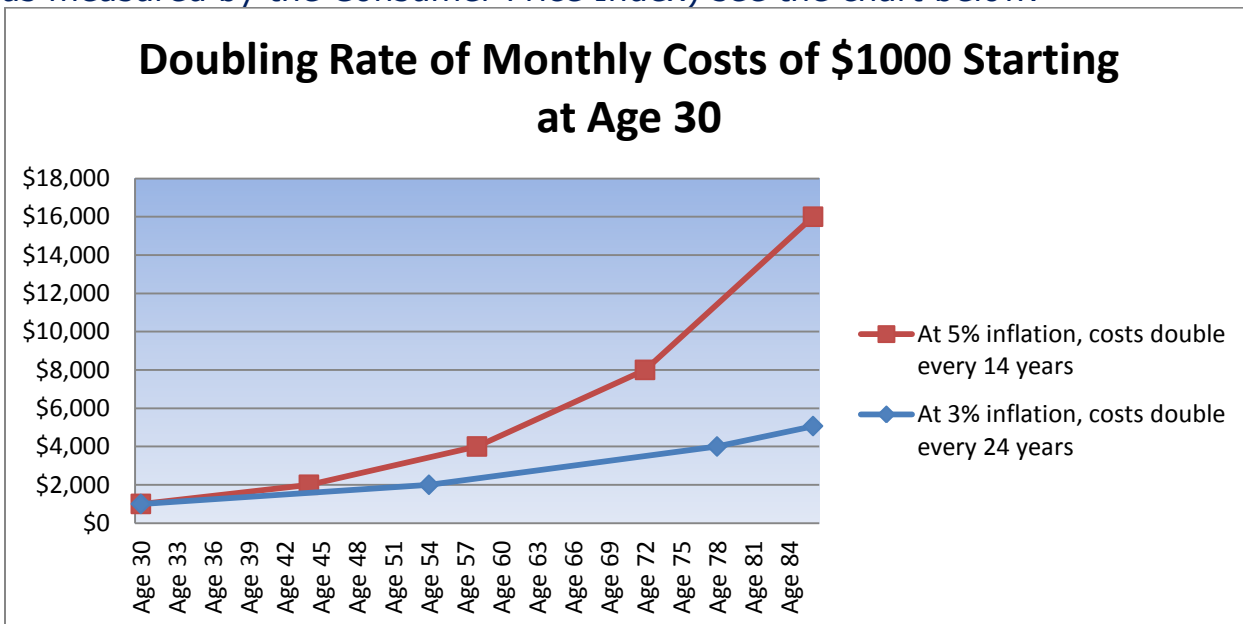
## Rule of 72 Illustrations

The Rule of 72 helps you project forward a single amount of money from a single time period.

To give you some idea of how sensitive the future value of your savings are to small differences in interest earned see the chart below.



To illustrate how small increases in the inflation rate (the annual rate of growth of prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index) see the chart below.



## **Now that you know what you will need:**

Deduct from your projected expenses your expected income from government and private pension plans. The balance must be made up with your savings and other assets.

## **Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) & Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Le Régime de rentes du Québec (RRQ), Régime de pensions du Canada (RPC)**

The Quebec Pension Plan and the Canada Pension Plan are very similar, but not identical. The C/QPP provides lifetime retirement income based on your retirement age and the year's maximum pensionable earnings\*.

\***YMPE** = Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings published by Canada Revenue every year. You can Google it. For 2017 the YMPE is \$55,300.

*The monthly C/QPP benefit is calculated* as 25% of your average lifetime monthly pensionable earnings from age 18 onward. The maximum monthly C/QPP benefit is 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the average YMPE over the last 5 years before you retire including your retirement year.

Earnings greater than the YMPE are not pensionable for C/QPP. Because most people earn less than the YMPE for a number of years, most people do not earn the maximum C/QPP benefit. Some low earning years can be left out of the calculation. (See Glossary about Contributory Period for more information.)

Benefits normally begin at age 65, but you can choose to receive reduced benefits as early as age 60, provided you meet certain eligibility requirements. *Your benefits will be reduced by 6% for each year that you retire before age 65. If you work to age 70, your benefits can be up to 42% higher than at age 65.*

Regardless of when payments begin, however, they are adjusted to *keep up with inflation* every year, based on increases in the Consumer Price Index.

**There is a link to a calculator for QPP benefits on the last page.**

Canada and Quebec pension plans also pay **disability and survivor benefits**.

Disability is paid, provided a range of criteria are met, up to age 65 and then this converts to pension. Disability payments are taxable and can impact other disability income you are entitled to receive, e.g. from an employer's health plan.

The amount and type (lump sum or monthly payments) of survivor benefit depends on how much the contributor paid into the plan.

## Old Age Security (OAS)

### Programme de la sécurité de la vieillesse (SV)

The OAS is not based on your employment history. It is a lifetime, flat-rate pension payable at age 65, provided you meet certain residence and other requirements.

*The maximum OAS benefit for 2017 is \$578.53 per month.*

OAS is adjusted every three months to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index.

You can apply for OAS six months before your planned retirement date starting with age 65. Please see the link on the last page for recent changes to the OAS.

**Supersize your OAS:** You can delay the start of your OAS for up to 5 years. In return you payouts get bumped up by *7.2% for every year you defer*. That means the government expects to make fewer payouts over your lifetime, but they will be bigger. For example, if you are eligible to receive the maximum OAS in 2017, delaying would mean an extra \$500 per year deferred plus inflation adjustments, or \$2,500 per year if deferring for 5 years. Deferral makes sense if you are likely to live a long time (depending on your health and your medical history), or if you work past age 65 and will be in a lower tax bracket in retirement than while working.

**Clawback of OAS:** If your net income after age 65 exceeds a certain level (\$73,756 in 2017), the excess is taxed at 15% up to your full OAS amount. OAS benefits are reduced at the time of payment to reflect this clawback. For individuals with a net income greater than \$119,615 in 2017, the OAS pension would be zero since the full OAS amount would be taxed back.

## Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)

### Supplément de revenu garanti (SRG)

The GIS is an additional monthly amount paid to OAS pensioners who have a yearly income (either individually or combined with a spouse or common law partner) below a certain level.

The supplement amount is adjusted every 3 months to *partially* reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index.

According to Service Canada (the Canadian government's website), the maximum possible GIS benefit for 2017 is \$864.09 per month for a single person (conditions apply). The average amount of GIS is more like \$500. If you are a pensioner but do not receive the maximum OAS you should contact Service Canada to get more accurate information about your benefits. There are links at the end of this document.

**The allowance - Programme d'Allocation:** An allowance can be paid to people between 60 and 64 having income within a range which the government calculates every quarter and who are:

- a spouse or common law partner of an OAS pensioner
- a widowed spouse of a person who was receiving an OAS pension, or
- a widowed spouse of a person who would have been eligible for the OAS pension had they survived to age 65.

The allowance stops when you become eligible for an OAS pension, or if you leave Canada for more than 6 months, or your partner ceases to be eligible for OAS. The allowance stops when you become eligible for an OAS pension, or if you leave.



## PENSION PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY: ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLMENT & CONTRIBUTION COSTS

<p><b>Eligibility:</b> <i>See page 4 for how to qualify early.</i></p>	<p>By law, to qualify for plan membership you must work 700 hours within a <b><i>calendar</i></b> year, or earn 35% of the yearly maximum pensionable earnings (YMPE) within a <b><i>calendar</i></b> year. (Quebec bases the QPP on YMPE.) The YMPE is \$55,300 for 2017. So for <b><i>calendar</i></b> 2017 you would have to earn \$19,355 of pensionable earnings – or teach 3 courses.</p>	
<p><b>Pensionable earnings are used to calculate your eligibility for, contributions to and benefits from the plan.</b></p>	<p><b>Pensionable earnings:</b> Contract salary for teaching, contract salary for committee work and large class stipends. <b>Earnings that are not pensionable:</b> Vacation pay, royalties from coursepack sales, course cancellation fees.</p>	
<p><b>How to enroll:</b></p>	<p>Once you qualify to become a member you will be given a choice of accruing service or temporarily not joining.</p>	
<p><b>Note:</b> <b><i>For part-time faculty who newly qualify for the plan in 2018 or later,</i></b> you will be automatically enrolled as “accruing service” unless you give written notice to <b><i>opt out (not join)</i></b>. The option to opt out exists for 2 years. After that, you will be automatically enrolled &amp; will contribute. <b><i>If you were a member of plan prior to 2018,</i></b> you had the option to choose to <b><i>not accrue service</i></b> starting in 2018. You remain in the plan, not accruing benefits, for as long as you wish. <b><i>You can change your status to “accruing service”</i></b> by notifying Concordia HR in writing by 30 Nov. to start the following year.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Accrue Service</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opt Out = Not Accruing Service = Not Accumulating Benefits</b></p>
	<p>This means you will contribute about 8% of your before-tax pensionable earnings and you will accumulate years of credited service (YCS). Years of credited service determine how much benefit you will receive once you retire.  e.g. If you earn \$25,000, your pension contribution would be about \$77 per pay before tax, but about \$55 per pay after tax.  <b><i>Once you are accruing service you cannot change your status back to “not accruing service”.</i></b></p>	<p>If you choose to temporarily opt out of the plan for 2 years, or if you chose to not accrue service, you will not contribute and you will not accumulate benefits for the period of time that you are not contributing. <i>You will be able to change your status to “accruing service” one time only,</i> effective 1 January of any later year. But you will not be able to “buy back” your missing contributions or years of credited service after the fact. So <b><i>your decision to not contribute for a while will reduce your benefits forever.</i></b> <b>Example on page 4.</b></p>



## HOW TO QUALIFY EARLY & COST OF DELAYING ACCRUING SERVICE

**IMPORTANT:** If you never teach more than 2 courses per year you will never qualify for the pension plan.

**Example of how to qualify early:** Suppose you typically teach 2 courses per academic year, one in fall and one in winter. If you can, just once, try to put off your fall course and instead apply for 2 courses the following winter and subsequently take your usual fall course. You will then have your 3 courses in a calendar year and automatically qualify for the pension. Once you join, you continue to be a member even if your teaching load is reduced in later years!

### ***Examples of Pension Accumulation by teaching 40 courses over 20 years:***

	<b>Teaching 2 courses per calendar year for 20 years.</b> Never earning enough in any calendar year to qualify.	<b>Not Joining for first 2 years</b> Earnings sufficient to qualify in year 1. Delays accruing service for 2 years.	<b>Accruing Service from beginning</b> Earnings sufficient to qualify in year 1. Chooses to accrue service right away.
	<b>Pension Earned under each of 3 situations*:</b> (*Amounts approximate. Before 2001 rules were different.)		
<b>Year 1:</b>	No pension earned.	No pension earned in qualifying year.	No pension earned in qualifying year.
<b>Years 2 &amp; 3:</b>	No pension earned.	Choosing to not accrue pension, so no benefits accumulating for 2 years.	Pension starts to accumulate under <i>accruing service membership</i> .
<b>Years 4-20:</b>	No pension accumulates. Always teaching 2 sections per calendar year.	Pension accumulates while teaching about 2 sections per year.	Pension continues to accumulate while teaching about 2 sections per year.
<b>At Year 21:</b> <b><i>Lifetime annual unreduced pension</i></b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>About \$4580 per year</b>	<b>About \$5150 or \$570 more per year.</b>

*\* Example is based on 1998-2017 data. Before 2001 membership required 2 consecutive years earning 35% of the YMPE. Prior to 1991 part-time faculty could not contribute to the plan because CUPFA only became a union in September 1989. The calculations above are approximate, and reflect only the pension formula as it would apply at age 65.*

## WHAT YOUR BENEFITS ARE BASED ON

The calculation of how you accumulate benefits is based on your years of credited service and your final average earnings. Benefit payments are monthly.

**YEAR OF CREDITED SERVICE (YCS)** is your pensionable earnings from a given calendar year divided by the deemed salary for a full-time "Step A1 lecturer" (first year LTA) for a given calendar year under the CUFA collective agreement. The rationale for this is that a part-time faculty member is not working a full-year's teaching load.

Pensionable earnings include earned salary for teaching and committee work and large class stipends, but excludes vacation pay, course cancellation fees and royalties for coursepacks. For 2017 the deemed salary for a full-time lecturer was \$61,666.

If you earned \$61,666 or more in 2017, you would accumulate one year of credited service. You cannot accumulate more than a year of credited service in a calendar year.

### **Sample Calculation of a Year of Credited Service:**

If you taught 3 courses at \$8183.74 in 2017 then  $\$8183.74 \times 3 = \$24,651$ .  
Your year of credited service earned in 2017 would be  
 $\$24,651$  divided by  $\$61,666 = 0.4$  of a year of credited service.

### **FINAL AVERAGE EARNINGS (FAE)**

The highest three (3) consecutive calendar years of earnings in the history of your employment at Concordia.

**For CUPFA members** each of those 3 consecutive years of earnings is counted separately as the **GREATER** of:

Your actual earnings, **OR** the annual salary for a CUFA Step A1 lecturer.

### **Sample Calculation of Final Average Earnings:**

If you were going to retire in 2017, and your highest 3 consecutive years happen to have been from 2015 to 2017, then:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Your actual earnings</b>	<b>Annual salary for Step A1 Lecturer</b>	<b>Counted for Final Average Earnings</b>
2015	\$24,000	\$60,180	\$60,180
2016	\$62,000	\$60,815	\$62,000
2017	\$45,000	\$61,666	\$61,666
Your final average earnings is the average of the last column:			<b>\$61,282</b>

## HOW BENEFITS ARE CALCULATED: THE PENSION FORMULA

The pension formula gives your "unreduced" pension benefits. From there other adjustments are made depending on choices you make. See pages 7 to 12.

	<b>NON-CONTRIBUTORY</b> ( <b>Not available</b> starting in 2018. Shown here for members with prior service under this formula. (p.7)	<b>ACCRUING SERVICE</b> (formerly called "contributory membership")
<b>Age 55 to 64:</b> (if you have 10 years or more of "unreduced early retirement service")	<u>For each year of credited service (YCS) before 1 January 2008:</u> 1.1% x Final Average Earnings <u>For each YCS from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2017:</u> 1% of Final Average Earnings.	For each year of credited service (YCS) as an "accruing service" (formerly contributory) member:  2% x Final Average Earnings
<b>Age 55 to 64:</b> (if you have less than 10 years of "unreduced early retirement service")	<i>The benefits calculation above would be <b>reduced</b> by 1/6% x the number of months by which your retirement date precedes age 65.</i> <b>See next page for definition of "unreduced early retirement service".</b> Check with Concordia's Pension Services Department to ascertain your eligibility for an unreduced pension prior to age 65.	
Regardless of your years of unreduced early retirement service, if you draw pension between ages 55 and 64, once you reach age 65 your benefits will be reduced to the calculation shown below. This is explained on the next page.		
<b>From age 65:</b> A subtraction is made because of the cessation of the early retirement bridging pension. This is explained on the next page.	<u>For each YCS before 1 January 2008:</u> 1.1% x final average earnings MINUS 0.25% of the lesser of the Final (3-year) Average YMPE and your Final Average Earnings. <u>For each YCS from 1 January 2008 to 31 Dec 2017:</u> 1% of your Final Average Earnings, <b>MINUS</b> 0.25% of the lesser of the Final (3-year) Average YMPE and your Final Average Earnings.	For each YCS as an accruing service (contributing) member:  2% x Final Average Earnings  <b>MINUS</b>  0.5% x <u>the lesser of</u> the Final (3-year) Average YMPE and your Final Average Earnings
<b>If you draw pension after age 65</b>	Lifetime benefits revalorized (increased) from what is shown in the "From age 65" formula based on actuarial factors such as age and sex.	

***The benefits are additive:*** If you were a member of plan prior to 2018 and for 2 years you were a non-contributory member, and the next 16 years you were a accruing service (contributing) member, then you would get the sum of 2 years accumulated pension as a non-contributory member plus 16 years accumulated pension as a contributory or accruing service member.

***Difference between "non-contributory" and "not accruing service":***

Prior to 2018 members could be non-contributing which meant the employer made all the contributions and the employee accumulated half the benefits of contributing members. Effective 1 Jan. 2018 Quebec law eliminated the non-contributory option. Not accruing service means no benefits are accumulated.

***Early Retirement:*** You will notice from the table on the preceding page that the pension formula for those who draw their pension between ages 55 and 64 is temporarily more generous than it becomes at age 65. This higher payout is called a ***bridging pension*** and is intended as an incentive to retire early.

**Unreduced early retirement** (Check with Concordia Pension Services for details)

To be eligible for unreduced early retirement pension benefit a member must complete 10 years of service accumulated as follows:

- before December 31, 2017: years of employment at the University.
- as of January 1, 2018: years of "credited (accruing) service" as a member under the Pension Plan (see top half of page 5).

The service years for early retirement are additive between the two periods of time. e.g. If you were employed by the University for 5 years up to 31 Dec. 2017, and then from that point forward you went on to earn 5 years of credited service as an accruing service (contributing) member of the plan, then you would have accumulated 10 years of service for unreduced early retirement.

***To Change your Membership Status to Accruing Service:***

If you were in the plan before 2018 and opted to "not accrue service", you can change to accruing service as of 1 Jan. 2019 by using a form that will soon be available on C-space. The form would have to be submitted to HR by 30 Nov. 2018.

If you newly qualify to enroll in the plan in 2018 or later, you will have 30 days from the date you receive your eligibility letter from the University to submit a form indicating your choice to accrue service or not in the plan.

***Once you begin to receive your pension, limited cost of living increases may apply depending on the performance of the pension fund.***

Pension payments may be increased each June 1 by the previous year's CPI inflation rate minus 2% provided this adjustment does not exceed the fund's average rate of return over the 5 prior calendar years, less 5%. Other inflation adjustments are also possible, again depending on the performance of the pension fund.

## THE CONCORDIA PENSION PLAN, QPP, CPP and OAS

	<b>Concordia Pension Plan</b>	<b>Quebec Pension Plan</b>	<b>Canada Pension Plan</b>
<b>Earliest age you may start to receive benefits:</b>	The first day of any month within 10 years preceding age 65. <i>An actuarial reduction may apply. See pages 6 and 7.</i>	Age 60 with reduction and must meet eligibility requirements.	Age 60 with reduction and must meet eligibility requirements.
		*If you retire in 2017 at age 60 you will receive a maximum of \$713.07/month.	
	<i>Benefits accumulate until you choose to retire. Therefore, the later you retire, the higher your benefits will be. For QPP and CPP, it can be possible to accumulate up to 42% more benefits by working until age 70.</i>		
<b>Normal retirement age:</b>	Age 65.	Age 65.	Age 65.
		*If you retire in 2017 at age 65 you will receive a maximum of \$1114.17/month.	
<b>Latest age you may start to receive benefits:</b>	December 1 <sup>st</sup> of the year you reach age 71.	December 1 <sup>st</sup> of the year you reach age 71.	December 1 <sup>st</sup> of the year you reach age 71.
		*If you retire in 2017 at age 70 or older the maximum is \$1,582.12/month.	
<b>When to apply:</b>	Apply by EMAIL or IN WRITING to Pension Services <i>three (3) months</i> before you wish to begin to <u>draw your pension</u> .	Apply 1 to 3 months prior to the month you wish to receive benefits.	Apply at least one month past the day of your 59 <sup>th</sup> birthday and 11 months before you want benefits to begin.

*\*Most people do not earn the full maximum QPP benefit. See previous page.*

### **Can I collect my Concordia Pension Plan but not collect QPP or CPP?**

Yes. The Concordia and other private pension plans are coordinated with QPP and CPP, but they are independent of each other.

***You should also apply for Canada's Old Age Security (OAS)*** regardless of which province you retire in. You can begin receiving OAS at age 65. For every month beyond age 65 that you defer receiving OAS your benefit will increase by 0.6% (or 7.2%/year). The max. OAS benefit for 2017 was \$578.53 per month.

You may also be eligible for the ***Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)***. See information links on last page regarding OAS and GIS.

## Your Savings

Websites for C/QPP, OAS, GIS and your annual Concordia pension statements will all project what your retirement income will be from these sources by age 65. These estimates change every year as you continue to participate and/or be eligible for all these plans.

Take your projected costs at retirement, subtract what you estimate you will receive from government and private pension sources. The difference is what you must make up with your own savings or other assets.

Suppose you projected that you will need \$3500 per month at age 65 to retire. If C/QPP will pay you \$1000 per month, OAS \$450 per month, GIS \$250 per month and Concordia Pension will be \$800 per month. Then:

\$3500	projected monthly expenses at retirement
- 1000	from C/QPP
- 450	from OAS
- 250	from GIS
- <u>800</u>	from Concordia pension plan
\$1000	

Then you will have to have savings sufficient to provide you with \$1000 per month income (or \$12,000 per year) at retirement.

**As a general rule of thumb** - for every extra \$500 per month that you need (\$6,000 per year), you will need about \$120,000 in savings - assuming 5% interest, and this does not include tax on the interest. It sounds like a lot, but the earlier you start saving the more achievable these goals can be.

Assuming you can earn 5% annually on your savings you will need \$240,000 in savings at retirement to provide \$1000 per month.

Alternatively you may be able to sell an asset like a house, or you may choose to continue working part-time, or even start a small business.

## How your Savings Grow:

### **Types of Investments:**

**You can earn interest** by having Guaranteed Investment Certificates which pay very low interest, or buying bonds. In that case the interest you earn will be taxed at the full income tax rate that you pay on your employment income.

Historical average returns on government bonds (1962-2011) has been around 7%. (GICs pay much less than this.)

**You can invest in stocks of companies.** In that case you can earn money two ways: dividends and capital gains. Dividends are part of the profits of a company. Capital gains happen when you sell your shares at a profit - it's the difference between what you paid for stocks and what you sell them for. You will typically pay about half the tax on dividends and capital gains compared to the tax on interest earned from bonds. Historical average returns on stocks (1962-2011) has been around 9%.

The extent to which your savings can grow depends on

- *how much rate of return you can earn each year,*
- *the tax you will have to pay on those earnings, and*
- *the number of years you have to retirement.*

Your earnings can earn compound growth over time. Compounding is the return that is earned on the principal amount invested PLUS all the accumulating interest or dividend payments. Compounding can result in dramatic growth in the value of an investment over time. The longer the time the money compounds for and the higher the rate of return, the more your savings are worth in the future.

Here are examples of how dramatically your money can grow.

**Assume \$2000 per year saved and 0% tax until age 65:**

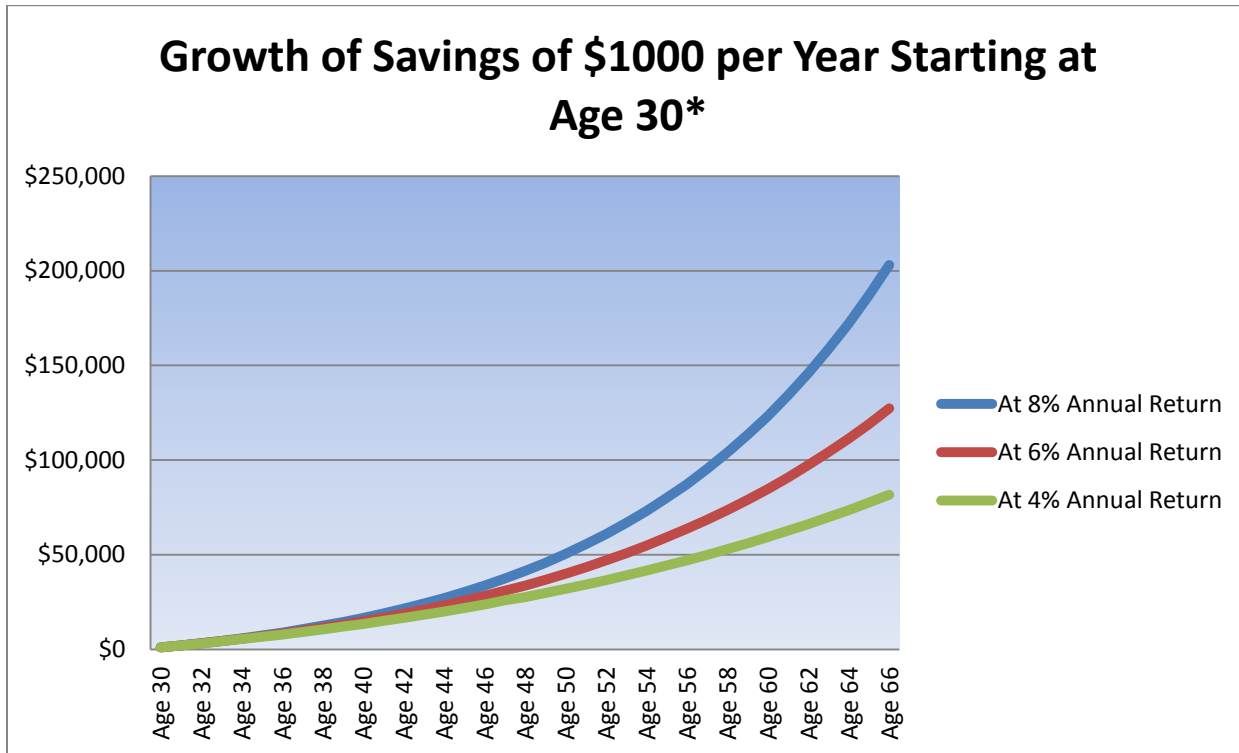
	<b>Return of 6%</b>	<b>Return of 9%</b>
A 55 year old saving for 10 years will have:	\$26,362	\$30,386
A 45 year old saving for 20 years will have:	\$73,572	\$102,320
A 35 year old saving for 30 years will have:	\$158,116	\$272,620

The graph on the following page illustrates this point.



As you can see from the graph below, the most dramatic compounding takes place in later years, so the earlier saving starts and the longer it can compound, the more dramatic the results.

The graph below also highlights, once again, the importance of getting ***enough growth*** in your savings.



***But to get the most out of your returns, it is critical that you try to shelter your savings from tax!***

\*There is a different formula that we use to project forward a regular payment stream (called an annuity).

The formula is: amount of regular deposit x  $\frac{[(1+r)^t - 1]}{r}$

where r is the interest rate and t is the number of years.

For example \$1000 deposited per year at 8% for 37 years would be:  
 $\$1000 \times (1.08^{37} - 1) / .08 = \$203,070$

## **RRSPs & TFSAs (REER & CELI)**

### ***RRSP: Registered Retirement Savings Plan. (REER: Régime enregistré d'épargne retraite)***

You get a tax deduction for contributing to these plans, therefore the rules are a bit more complicated.

You can contribute a maximum of 18% of your annual earned income up to a maximum of \$26,010 for 2017. The upper limit is indexed to wage growth and published by the Canadian government every year.

Inside the plan you can invest your savings in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc. You can top up the plan. Unused contribution room from a previous year can be carried forward to any future year.

BUT withdrawals from the plan do not create additional contribution room. Also you will PAY TAX on any money withdrawn, since you will have received a tax deduction for your contribution.

You cannot own an RRSP beyond age 71. At that point the contents of your RRSP must be transferred into a RRIF (Registered Retirement Income Fund) (FERR Fonds enregistré de revenu de retraite), and you must take regular withdrawals from that age onward. This is a law intended to ensure retirees have retirement income.

### ***TFSA: Tax Free Savings Account. (CELI: Compte d'épargne libre d'impôt)***

*You may deposit up to \$5500 per year starting from age 18 and inside the account you may invest in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.*

*Your money will grow tax free until you withdraw it and then you will only pay tax on earnings you record from that point forward.*

*You can "top up" the plan. If you under-contribute one year, you can make up for it the next. If you take money out one year, you can put it back the next.*

*There is no tax deduction for putting money into a TFSA.*

*You can keep contributing to a TFSA for as long as you live if you like. There is no upper limit on the age someone has to be to contribute.*

### ***New Concordia University Group RRSP & Group TFSA Plans:***

The employer does not contribute funds for you but you can contribute your own money by payroll deduction. The management fees are low and you can set a variety of investment goals within these plans. There is extensive information about this is on C-Space.

***There is much more to retirement planning than this.***

***Specific types of investments and insurance considerations are things that you should seek professional advice on.***

## **INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS:**

**For general information on benefits at Concordia:** Part-time faculty should read article 15 of the CUPFA Collective Agreement for details on available benefits. There is also information on the CUPFA website ([www.cupfa.org](http://www.cupfa.org)) in the Survival Guide and you can also read details of the Health Plan at the main Concordia website by entering "Health Plan" into the search engine pm C-space.

**If any problems or issues arise with regard to benefits at Concordia, part-time faculty should **ALWAYS CONTACT CUPFA FIRST** before contacting the University.**

### **For those planning to retire and are covered under the Health Plan at Concordia the following details are relevant:**

**Prescription drug coverage** stops at age 65 or as soon as you end your employment at Concordia, whichever comes first. At that point, part-time faculty must register with the RAMQ (Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec) for prescription drug coverage even if that faculty member is still working at Concordia. RAMQ covers about 7,000 drugs. The Common Drug Review (CDR) is the process undertaken by the Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC) to review the clinical evidence and make drug reimbursement listing recommendations for new drugs. The CDR is funded by participating federal and provincial/territorial governments. Quebec does not participate in the CDR which means it may not cover a drug you may need.

**The Comprehensive Health Plan** at Concordia University ends once a part-time faculty member stops working for Concordia. Part-time faculty who reach age 65 but are still working at Concordia may elect to remain covered under the Comprehensive Health Plan for coverage other than for prescription drugs, in which case they will be required to pay additional premiums. This is a good idea.

Thanks to Article 15 of our Collective Agreement, as part-time faculty we do have remarkably good short-term disability coverage. **But because we are part-time, we are not eligible for long-term disability coverage.** Therefore unless you have another full-time job where you are covered, you may want to consider private long-term disability or critical illness insurance.

**The time to get disability or critical illness insurance of any kind is before you are diagnosed with an illness, because if you wait until after you are diagnosed the insurance companies can refuse coverage.**

What are the odds of being injured or having a disabling medical condition?

**For short-term disability:** A full one in six Canadians will be disabled for three months or more before age 50.

**For long-term disability:** Many illnesses or injuries can disable a person for extended periods of time. The most common disabling disease is cancer. The Canadian Cancer Society says that about 42.5% of the population will be diagnosed with cancer of some sort (that's 1 in every 2.3 people), with more than half of all cancers diagnosed in the age

group 50-74. Statistics Canada reports the incidence of heart disease also jumps from 2% of the population to 6% starting in our 50s.

The following is excerpted from a good explanatory article on disability insurance that appeared in Money Sense magazine in 2012. A copy of the article will be posted on the CUPFA website and there is a link to it below.

<http://www.moneysense.ca/2012/01/30/disability-insurance-preparing-for-the-worst/>

### **While you are still working: Private Long-Term Disability Insurance**

Disability insurance partly replaces your wages (it pays a monthly income) if you are unable to work. Disability plans will either cover you for "any occupation" or "own occupation." The latter is much better, because under this definition, total disability means the inability to work at your regular job. With "any occupation," total disability means the ability to perform the duties of any job. That means that if you become disabled, but you could perform a less demanding job, you may not get the benefit. Often plans offer "own occupation" coverage for the first two years of the benefit period and then switch to "any occupation" after that.

To give you a quick idea of the cost involved in private disability insurance, a private "own occupation" disability policy for a 40-year-old male white-collar non-smoker that pays \$3,000 a month until age 65 (90-day waiting period) would cost about \$140 a month. The same policy for "any occupation" would cost about \$75 a month. When calculating your coverage, keep in mind that payments from private disability insurance are tax-free, while the payout from most corporate plans is taxable.

Reports on privately obtained long-term disability insurance (outside of a group plan), are that this insurance is quite expensive and it can be difficult to collect on a claim. The policies are complex and rules are intricate - read these policies very carefully before signing. The following is a link to a helpful website about this:

<http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/insurance/claims/>

### **Critical Illness Insurance:**

Critical illness insurance pays out a tax-free lump sum payment following the diagnosis of one of several illnesses covered by your policy. This insurance only makes sense if you help to support your family, but you can't get disability insurance because you have no earned income. This is a "named peril" type of insurance. If you get a disease not specifically named in the policy then it is not covered. Cancer, for instance, is only covered if it is one of the very specific types listed, exactly as listed.

### **Disability (& Life) Insurance on loans:**

Depending on your coverage at Concordia, or possibly other places of work, it may be a consideration to have life/disability insurance on your debts especially once you enter your 50s, when health issues become more common. This would cover your loan payments should you have a protracted illness. Your bank will price this insurance for you. (Note: It is not recommended to retire while still paying off your mortgage or other sizeable debts.)

## ***Other Insurance Considerations in Retirement:***

The following types of insurance policies are typically purchased by individuals once they retire.

**Supplemental Medical Insurance:** With this type of insurance, premiums are charged and then these programs reimburse you for costs associated with an illness or accident which aren't covered by the provincial health plans, such as prescription drugs, registered specialists and therapists, dental care, vision care, etc. You can purchase supplemental health insurance from companies like Blue Cross, Globalex, etc. Also Concordia University has agreements with various insurance companies to provide discounts to our employees, alumni, etc., so you may inquire along those lines as well. There is a helpful article about this type of insurance with *examples of premiums* at the following link: <http://www.retirementadvisor.ca/retadv/apps/articles/articles.jsp?articlePage=HealthCare&learningMenu=articles> (We will post this on the website as well.)

Be aware that companies that offer coverage without your having to provide medical information may require that you pay premiums for 2 to 3 years before any benefits can be paid.

**Travel Medical Insurance:** *You should obtain travel medical insurance whenever you leave Quebec.* You can contact CAA, Glabalex (online), Concordia University's financial partners, any professional societies that you may belong to, etc., to get quotes and information. Quebec is the only province that has not signed a reciprocal payment agreement with other provinces and it only compensates at its own payment level *which is the lowest in the country.* This means if you are covered by any other province's provincial medical insurance, if you become sick while elsewhere in Canada, payment is automatically covered by the province you are insured under. But if you are covered by RAMQ and you become sick elsewhere in Canada, depending on the treatment and the place, you may have to pay all medical costs up front and then be compensated later by RAMQ at RAMQ rates. One anecdotal reference I found cited a person having knee surgery in Ontario, had to pay \$2000 for the surgery there and received only \$1400 from RAMQ as compensation.

***Be aware also that you need to read the "exclusions" on any privately obtained medical insurance policy. Some exclusions are quite extraordinary.***

**Dental Insurance:** Coverage for this is expensive and it is usually cheaper to just put aside some regular savings to cover this on your own.

**Term Life Insurance:** This is an estate consideration. Quebec does provide a \$2500 death benefit to help with funeral expenses, but this is taxable. If this is a concern for your beneficiaries, then term life insurance might be something to consider.

**Long-term Care Insurance:** Long-term care insurance protects a person's financial resources if something happens to their health in retirement. The policy would cover things like in-home care to help you dress and eat, or help provide care in a facility, such

as a private nursing home. *(There is a significant quality difference between government paid nursing homes and private ones.)*

*According to Canadian Life and Health Insurance Agency; Institute for Research on Public Policy about 43% of Canadians over age of 85 currently receive home care. About 750,000 senior citizens could find themselves living in health care institutions by 2036, compared with about 300,000 today. Less than 1% of Canadians currently have long-term care insurance.*

Long-term care insurance is designed to pay for expenses if a person needs to move into a care facility or requires in-home care. The costs and benefits of this depend on several factors and how old you are when you start to pay premiums. *If you start paying in your 50s* the premiums are much lower than if you wait until you are in your 60s.

Deciding whether or not to pay for the protection that comes with long-term care insurance requires that you consider the following factors:

- How much are you saving now, and can you continue to save for retirement as well as fund the insurance premiums?
- How much is your nest egg likely to be worth when you are in your 80s and could you fund the \$20,000 annual cost of a semi-private room in a long-term care facility?
- Will you have family members nearby who could take some responsibility for you, or will you be relying on others if you need additional support?
- What is your prediction for your health, based on how you're doing currently and any other hereditary factors that might afflict you?

The Council on Aging has written *an excellent guide* to long-term care insurance. It provides insight on the types of policies available as well as some ballpark costs. Again we will post the article on the website and the link to it is below.

[http://www.fsna.com/uploads/editor/Long\\_Term\\_Care\\_Insurance\\_Oct2008.pdf](http://www.fsna.com/uploads/editor/Long_Term_Care_Insurance_Oct2008.pdf)

## **YOUR ESTATE:**

### **The Importance of Having a Will**

A will is a legal document in which you specify who will inherit your property after your death, and what the share of each person will be.

There are many advantages of making a will. By making a will you can choose who you wish to inherit your assets, rather than this decision being made by the laws of intestacy. You can give opportunities to others by passing on your possessions.

You can choose to pass certain belongings to certain individuals, for example, your car, a painting, a family heirloom. This can ensure that items of sentimental value are retained in the family.

With a will you can ensure that your loved ones are provided for. Without a will some of the people you love may have to go through a court action to make a claim which can be lengthy and expensive.

You can ensure that the people you choose will administer your estate. The preparation of a will allows you to choose your executor who will deal with the winding up of your estate in the way you have requested. If there is no will a family member or other party with an interest may have to petition the Court to become your executor.

It will also make it easier for your loved ones to deal with your affairs when you are gone. Dying without a will adds all sorts of complications to the administration of an estate and can increase the cost and work involved for the executors.

You should re-read your will from time to time to make sure that it still reflects your true intentions, and that it matches your current situation. The following is a link provided by the Province of Quebec about wills in this province.

<http://www.justice.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/generale/testamen-a.htm>



## Your Mandate - A Living Will

A Living Will is called a Mandate in the Province of Quebec. It allows you to maintain control over your own health care decisions, even when you can't make them.

A Living Will provides instructions regarding your medical care if you were to become ill or incapacitated and unable to state your wishes. Through a Living Will, you may indicate types of treatment you do or do not want to receive. You may also appoint someone to make your health care decisions if you are unable to make them.

Most families are grateful for a Living Will, particularly when they are faced with end-of-life choices. A Living Will can help your family make the best of a difficult situation because you will have chosen one or more people whose judgment you trust to make your health care decisions. You will have also given them some guidance about those decisions.

You should create your Mandate or Living Will with the assistance of a lawyer (or notary in Quebec). You should also discuss it with your family members and physician.

## Power of Attorney

A power of attorney gives a person power to administrate your property.

There are many different situations in which you need to give another person responsibility for carrying out a particular action on your behalf. For example, you could be leaving on vacation and not have time to sell your car or sign the lease for a new apartment. Or you could be physically disabled, but mentally sound, and need someone to carry out your financial transactions. You may think you spouse can do such things on your behalf, but not without a power of attorney.

*You should discuss, wills, mandates and power of attorney with a notary if you are in the Province of Quebec, or with a lawyer if you are outside the province of Quebec.*

***As with the financial planning for your retirement, it is best to seek out professional advice for all aspects of your estate planning.***

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

*Not all the terms listed below are in the text of this document but you may run into these terms when using the links at the end of this document to find more information.*

**Commutated Value (CV) of your Pension** The CV is a lump sum payment representing the present value of a member's accrued pension. In layman's terms, the CV represents how much money you would have to invest today to pay your future monthly pension. The CV goes by many names: transfer value, lump sum value, and actuarial present value. Calculation is based on actuarial factors such as your age and the interest rate at the time you retire.

**Consumer Price Index** The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an indicator of changes in consumer prices experienced by Canadians. It is obtained by comparing, over time, the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by consumers.

### **Contributory vs Non-Contributory Membership in Concordia Pension Plan**

Once you become a member of the pension plan (see page 4) you are automatically enrolled as a non-contributory member. You can change your membership status to contributory (or back to non-contributory) in any year after becoming a member. Contributory members earn **double the benefits** of non-contributory members. *To Change your Membership Status:* Just go to the CUPFA website and click on publications, pension. The Contribution Status Change form is the second document on that page. You can also find the form at the **Pension @ccess** link(Cspace/Services/Visit Pensions).

**Contributory Period for Quebec & Canada Pension Plans (C/QPP)** The total span of time during your life when you *may* contribute to the C/QPP is called your contributory period. It is used in calculating your C/QPP benefits. Your contributory period begins when you reach age 18 or January 1966 (the start of the C/QPP) and continues until you begin receiving your Canada or Quebec pension, reach age 70 or die (whichever is the earliest). To protect you, some low-income periods will be dropped out of the calculation, such as:

- months for which either a *disability pension* under the C/QPP or an *unreduced income replacement indemnity* from the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CSST) was paid
- starting in 1966, the months for which *family benefits from Québec or Canada* for a child under the age of 7 were paid or the months during which the contributor was eligible for such benefits but none were payable
- the months during which your earnings were the lowest (up to 15% of the period).

Dropping out periods of low earnings *increases* the amount of your benefit.

**Deemed Salary for Full-Time Faculty at Concordia** You can look up what the deemed salary for a full-time lecturer (probationary full-time faculty, salary Step A1) on page 187 of the CUFA Collective Agreement (in effect until May 2012, but the 2012 level was maintained in 2013) which you can find on Concordia's Human Resources (HR) website. This is part of how we calculate a year of credited service for the pension plan at Concordia University.

**Defined Benefit Pension Plan** A defined benefit pension plan stipulates what your monthly lifetime pension will be ahead of time based on your pensionable earnings and years of service.

Your monthly payments are guaranteed by the employer. The employer bears the risk of a shortfall in investment results.

**Defined Contribution Pension Plan** A defined contribution pension plan means that on your retirement you receive a lump sum equivalent to your accumulated pension (the "commuted value" of your pension) and from that point forward you assume personal responsibility for investing your pension savings, and you bear the risk of any shortfall in your investments.

**Draw Your Pension** These are the words you use when you want to start receiving your Concordia Pension. Do not say you want to "retire" unless you are absolutely certain you will no longer be working for the University in any capacity whatsoever.

**Final average earnings** The highest three (3) consecutive calendar years of *pensionable* earnings in the history of your employment at Concordia. For CUPFA members this is the GREATER of the average of the highest 3 consecutive years of annualized CUPFA salary (6 x salary for 3 credit course) OR the highest 3 consecutive years of a CUFA Step A1 lecturer's salary. Your pension benefits are calculated based on your final average earnings times your years of credited service.

**Final Average YMPE** This is the average YMPE over the last few years before you retire including your retirement year. YMPE is defined below. This is part of the Pension Formula and is a consideration if you retire at age 65 or later. (For the pension plan at Concordia the Final Average YMPE is calculated over 3 years. For QPP it is calculated over 5 years.)

**Financial Advice** Professional financial advice is usually available free of charge from your bank, investment company or life insurance company. You can also sometimes find a professional financial advisor by word of mouth and in some cases you can pay by the hour.

**Locked-In** By Federal and Provincial law, if you terminate employment for reasons other than retirement or death, members or former members *of private pension plans* may not cash in the commuted value of benefits earned in a private pension plan. The funds must be transferred to Locked-In Retirement Account (LIRA) until you retire. Funds inside the LIRA may accumulate earned interest or dividends but withdrawals are not permitted until retirement. At retirement, the funds within the LIRA must then be converted into an income generating product or account such as a Life Annuity or Life Income Fund (LIF). The reason for this requirement is to ensure that a plan member's pension entitlement is used for the purpose originally intended, which is to provide income in retirement for that person, and where applicable that person's spouse. (An RRSP is not suitable for such transfers because funds within an RRSP can be withdrawn at any time.) There are limited exceptions to this requirement. These include:

- o The amount of pension payable at the pension plan's normal retirement age or the commuted value payable from a pension plan falls below prescribed limits;
- o The balance in a locked-in RRSP or LIF falls below prescribed limits.

**"LIRA" Locked-In Retirement Account (Compte de retraite immobilisé CRI) or "LRSP" Locked-in Retirement Savings Plan - names vary by province:** A type of registered retirement savings alternative that locks in the pension funds in investments until retirement or age 71. While the funds are locked in, they are unavailable for cash-out. At retirement or age 71 pension funds in a LIRA or LRSP are used to purchase a Life Annuity or transferred to an income generating account such as a Life Income Fund (LIF) or a Locked-in

Retirement Income Fund (LRIF). (LRIF is same as LIF, names of funds vary by province.) Upon reaching the retirement age, the Life Annuity, LIF or LRIF provide a pension for life.

**Life Annuity or Annuity (rente ou une rente viagère)** This is an investment product offered by *life insurance companies*. You can invest in it by making installment payments over time or you can purchase it with a lump sum amount. Based on the amount invested, a life insurance company makes guaranteed regular income payments to an investor that contain both interest and a return of principal. Annuity payments can continue for the lifetime(s) of one or two people, or for a chosen period of time. There are tax implications for purchasing annuities so, as with all retirement decisions, professional advice should be sought out before making a purchase.

**"LIF" Life Income Fund (Fonds de revenu viager FRV) or "LRIF" names vary by province:** This is a type of locked in retirement account (LIRA) that is used to hold private pension funds, and eventually pay out retirement income. Funds inside a LIF cannot be withdrawn in a lump sum; rather, owners must use the fund in a manner that supports retirement income for their lifetime. Each year's Income Tax Act specifies the minimum and maximum withdrawal amounts for LIF owners, which takes into consideration the LIF fund balance and the owner's annuity factor. (The annuity factor takes into account actuarial details such as age of LIF owner and interest rates.)

**"RRIF" Registered Retirement Income Fund (FERR fonds enregistré de revenu de retraite)** By law, individuals who hold RRSPs, Spousal RRSPs and Group RRSPs are required to close these plans no later than the last day of the year in which they turn 71. Many individuals choose to transfer these RRSP assets to a RRIF or Spousal RRIF. The RRIF pays out a prescribed mandatory minimum payment each year, but there is no maximum annual withdrawal limit. All withdrawals are taxable. If you withdraw more than the prescribed minimum amount the tax on the excess amount will be withheld at source.

**Retire** The University interprets this word to mean you are *permanently leaving the employ of Concordia University* and are of pensionable age and entitled to Pension Benefits. CUPFA recommends you instead tell the University you wish to *draw your pension* rather than retire.

**Year of Credited Service (or just "Year of Service")** This is *your pensionable earnings* from a given calendar year *divided by* the *deemed salary for a full-time lecturer* for a given calendar year under the CUFA collective agreement. Your pension benefits are based on your final average earnings times your years of credited service.

**Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE) - maximum des gains ouvrant droit à une pension.** The maximum earnings for which contributions can be made to the Canada Pension Plan / Quebec Pension Plan (earnings ceiling) during the year. Increases from year to year in YMPE reflect a CPP legislated formula that takes into account the growth in average weekly wages in Canada.

## INFORMATION RESOURCES

### **Concordia Pension Plan Documentation:**

Search "Concordia Pension Plan" at the main Concordia website [www.concordia.ca](http://www.concordia.ca). A link to a PDF copy of the full legal text of the *Pension Plan for the Employees of Concordia University* will come up as well as a link to the Pension Services website.

**The Pension Services website:** <http://www.concordia.ca/hr/benefits.html>

summarizes the key details of the pension plan and even covers many aspects of general personal retirement planning. You can also use the **pension@ccess** link (Cspace/Services/Human Resources/Visit Pensions/related links) to access all your personal pension information *as well as **the form to change your membership status to contributory***. (If you haven't used the **pension@ccess** link before click on User Guide. Note part-time faculty cannot use the pension calculator because our workload varies from year to year.)

**Concordia's Pension Services Office: S-FB-1130** visit their offices to pick up and sign card to change beneficiary designation. Otherwise email: [pensions@concordia.ca](mailto:pensions@concordia.ca) to have forms sent to you or ask general questions.

### **Your Concordia Annual Pension Statement also contains useful information:**

To access your statement follow the following links: Sign into Cspace. Click on Services/ Human Resources/ Benefits/ Pensions and sign on to the **Pension @ccess** link.

***IMPORTANT:** If you are logging onto Pension @ccess for the first time, do not try using your usual netname and password. Instead read the instructions in the User Guide before signing in.*

### **Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE):**

You can look up the YMPE as published by the Government of Canada. Just Google it mentioning the year you are interested in or try the following link.

<http://www.servicenl.gov.nl.ca/pensions/ympe.html>

### **ANNUAL ORIENTATIONS:**

**CUPFA** expects to have periodic orientation meetings on benefits including retirement, pension, health plan, parental leave, etc. Members will be notified when these meetings are scheduled.

**Concordia Pension Services** also holds an annual information meeting on the Pension Plan for the Employees of Concordia University which is usually held in September.

**Concordia Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** annually holds a series of two lunchtime seminars on retirement. These are usually held in the spring. Part I is "A Focus on Lifestyle" . Part II is on *"Financial Planning for Retirement given by a representative from the Insurance industry*. You can register on-line through Employee Assistance Program at the main Concordia website or email Nina Peritz at [Nina.Peritz@concordia.ca](mailto:Nina.Peritz@concordia.ca) for information.

**Quebec Pension Plan: (514) 873-2433 or 1-800-463-5185**

[http://www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/en/retraite/rrq/Pages/calcul\\_rente.aspx](http://www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/en/retraite/rrq/Pages/calcul_rente.aspx)

**QPP Statement of Participation -To calculate your benefits**

[http://www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/en/services/services\\_en\\_ligne/Pages/releve\\_participation.aspx](http://www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/en/services/services_en_ligne/Pages/releve_participation.aspx)

**Government of Quebec publications on QPP:**

[http://www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/en/services/publications/regime\\_rentes/Pages/regime\\_rentes.aspx](http://www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/en/services/publications/regime_rentes/Pages/regime_rentes.aspx)

**QPP Link on Joint and Survivor Benefits:**

[http://www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/en/retraite/rcr/rcd/prendre\\_retraite/Pages/forme\\_rente.aspx](http://www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/en/retraite/rcr/rcd/prendre_retraite/Pages/forme_rente.aspx)

**QPP Link on LIRA and LIF:**

[http://www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/en/retraite/source\\_revenus\\_retraite/regimes\\_prives/Pages/rcr.aspx](http://www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/en/retraite/source_revenus_retraite/regimes_prives/Pages/rcr.aspx)

**Canada Pension Plan: 1-800-622-6232**

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/services/pensions/cpp/retirement/index.shtml>

**Service Canada - CPP overview:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/publicpensions/cpp.html>

**Old Age Security - General Info and Changes to OAS: 1-800-277-9914**

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/services/pensions/oas/index.shtml>

**Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS): 1-800-622-6232**

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/services/pensions/oas/gis/index.shtml>

The Guaranteed Income Supplement provides additional money, on top of the Old Age Security, to low-income seniors living in Canada. To be eligible for the GIS benefit you must be receiving the Old Age Security Pension and meet certain income requirements.

See disclaimer and other relevant information at the bottom of the cover sheet of this document.