A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN TEACHERS' RETIREMENT PLAN **NUMBER 71** AUGUST 2026

STRP UPDATE

PURCHASE YOUR PARENTING LEAVE

When you're on a parenting leave and any Supplemental Employment Benefits Plan payment to you has ceased, you don't accrue pension service for the rest of your leave. However, you can purchase this service once you return from your parenting leave so that it still counts towards your pension.

Why should you purchase service?

- Purchasing this service may mean you can retire sooner, depending on when you started teaching.
- Purchased service is added to the service used to calculate your monthly pension payment, increasing your benefit.

When should you purchase your parenting service?

You should purchase your parenting leave service as soon as possible after your leave ends. Your cost is based on what you would have contributed during that time (right now that's 10 per cent of your salary for a full year). A two-year, interest-free window on the cost of your leave starts when your leave ends.

After that, interest is charged – so the longer you wait, the more expensive it becomes. Here's an example: A leave from about 20 years ago costs $4,400 before interest, but costs $15,000 today. That's more than triple the initial interest-free cost!

How do you purchase your service?

- Make a lump-sum cash payment, or
- Transfer RRSPs, or
- Use your STRP voluntary contributions.

Retiring soon?

If you are considering retirement in the next few years, make sure you start the process of purchasing your parenting leave at least one to two years before your desired retirement date. The Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan must apply to the Canada Revenue Agency for a Past Service Pension Adjustment before your service purchase can be processed and added in your pension record, which can take months to complete.

Contact the STRP to get a quote on the cost to purchase your parenting leave and to start the purchasing process.

SAVE WITH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS!

If you are planning a future parenting leave, you can start saving for it now by making voluntary contributions to the STRP. These contributions will earn the pension fund's net rate of return. For more information on voluntary contributions, visit the STF website.

TRANSFERRING PENSION SERVICE FROM OTHER TEACHERS' PENSION PLANS

If you taught in another province, you may be able to transfer your pension service from another teachers' pension plan to the STRP.

Why transfer service?

More service means a larger STRP pension and, depending on when you started your teaching career, possibly an earlier unreduced retirement date.

When should you transfer your service?

Apply at least two years before your targeted retirement date. Transfers involve two pension plans and can take months to process. If you're close to retirement, delays may even postpone when you can start collecting your pension. Costs also rise as you near retirement.

How much does it cost to transfer service?

Transferring service is not just simply the STRP accepting funds and service from the other pension plan. Each pension plan is different, with different pension benefit formulas and service values.

The STRP calculates the price of your service using actuarial assumptions including age, retirement date, interest rates, mortality and more. The other plan tells you how much money you have available to transfer.

If the amount of money you have from the other pension plan is equal to or more than the price of the service determined by STRP, you can transfer all of your service.

However, if it is less than the price of the service, you have a shortfall. This means you may:

- Elect to use the money you do have to transfer some of the service (not all), or
- Elect to use the money you do have, plus decide to use your own personal funds (cash payment or RRSP transfer) to make up the shortfall to transfer all of your service.

Here's an example*:

You have 3.00 years of service elsewhere. That plan gives you $105,000 to transfer. The STRP values the service at $140,000. This leaves you with a $35,000 shortfall.

Your options:

- Transfer only 2.25 years using the $105,000.
- Transfer all 3.00 years by paying the $35,000 shortfall.
- Do nothing and leave the service in the other plan.

* **Note:** *The above is just one example. The values calculated by the participating pension plans may vary significantly, and may be higher or lower, depending upon the assumptions used by each pension plan.*

How do you start the process of transferring service?

Submit an STRP Appendix "A" Transfer Application Form – Importing, available on the STF website.

Moving to another province to teach?

The same process exists if you move to teach out of province, with the STRP and the other pension plan calculation steps reversed.

We have Reciprocal Transfer Agreements with these pension plans:

- Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund Board
- British Columbia Teachers' Pension Plan
- Canadian Teachers' Federation
- Manitoba Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund
- New Brunswick Teachers' Pension Plan
- Nova Scotia Pension Services Corporation
- Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board
- Prince Edward Island Teachers' Superannuation Fund
- Retraite Quebec
- Saskatchewan Teachers' Superannuation Commission
- Teachers' Pension Plan Corporation, Newfoundland and Labrador

ELIGIBILITY SERVICE VERSUS CONTRIBUTORY SERVICE: **WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**

Understanding how service is defined in your pension plan is key to making informed decisions about your retirement. So, what's the difference between eligibility service and contributory service?

Eligibility Service

Eligibility service determines when you can retire with an unreduced pension. Contract teachers, whether on a full contract or partial contract, receive full eligibility service for each month worked in the school year, up to 10 months (one school year). For example, if your contract is 50 per cent and you work 10 months in the school year, you will get a full year of eligibility service for that year.

Substitute teachers accrue eligibility service based on the actual number of days they work in the school year. For example, if you substitute teach five days every month for 10 months, your eligibility service is 0.25 years.

Your earliest unreduced retirement date is the earliest of:

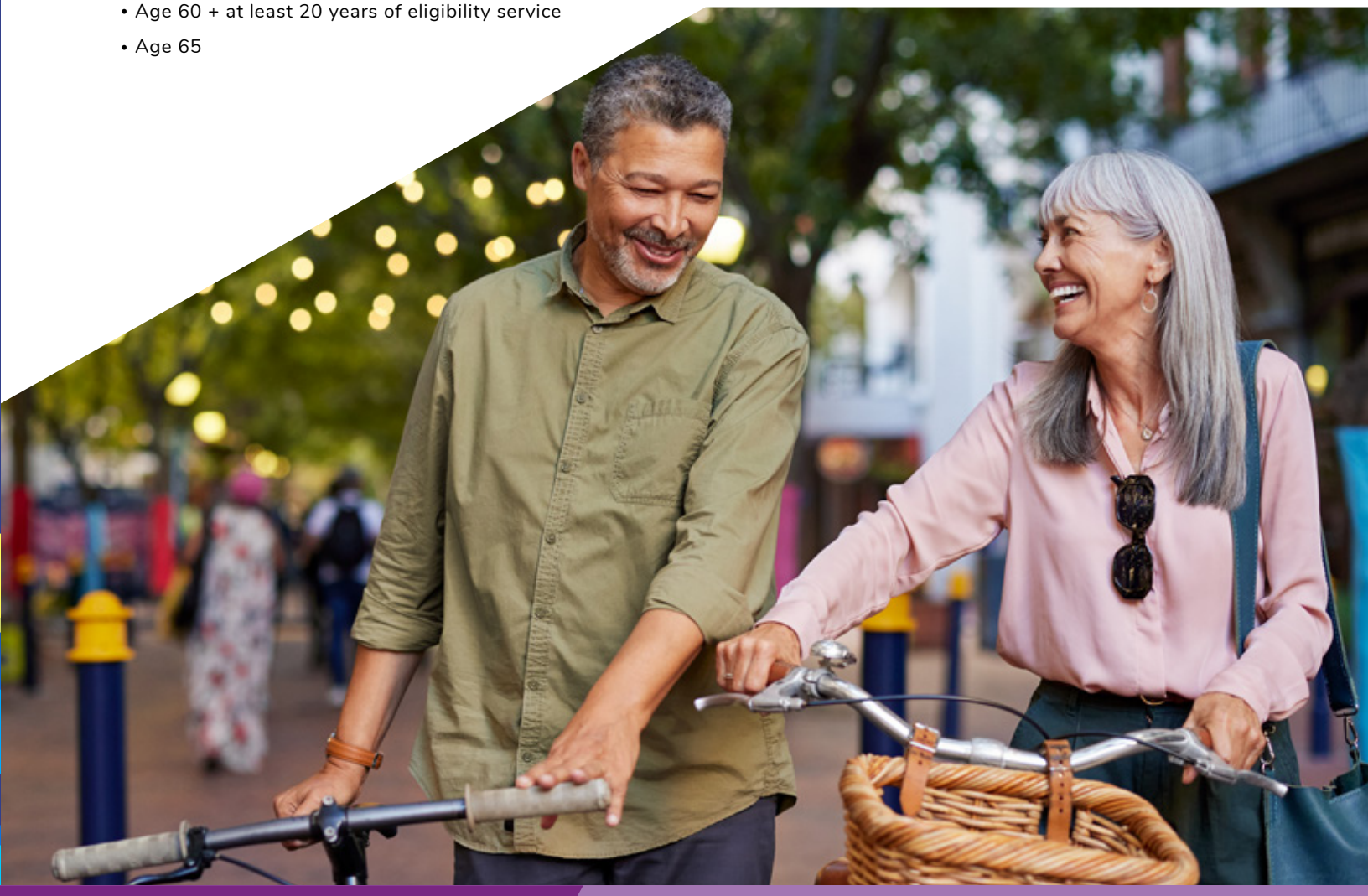
- 30 years of eligibility service (no minimum age)
- Your age + eligibility service = 85 (minimum age 55)
- Age 60 + at least 20 years of eligibility service
- Age 65

Contributory Service

Contributory service determines the amount of your pension benefit at retirement. Contract teachers and substitute teachers accrue contributory service based on the actual number of days they work in the school year. For example, a 50 per cent contract over a full school year equals half a year of contributory service.

Because contributory service directly impacts your pension calculation, increasing it is one of the most effective ways to enhance your retirement income.

Want to know how much eligibility service versus contributory service you have? Log in to your MySTF account to view your most recent annual pension statement.



STRP REMAINS FINANCIALLY HEALTHY

Another valuation has been completed for the STRP as at July 1, 2025. The Plan is still financially stable, healthy and fully funded. As a result, conditional increases were approved for 2026, for both active and retired members. These increases will help STRP continue to provide meaningful pensions for our Plan members.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

(AS OF JUNE 30, 2025)

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: **30,915**

INACTIVE MEMBERS	ACTIVE MEMBERS	RETIRED MEMBERS/ SURVIVORS
9,599 TOTAL	**15,842 TOTAL**	**5,474 TOTAL**
925 prior plan deferred	**41.89 YEARS** average age	**58.15 YEARS** average retirement age
264 deferred		**$3,385** average monthly pension
8,410 inactives		

RETIREMENT REMINDER: SKIP THE TRIP TO THE PENSION OFFICE

If you're applying for retirement this year, get help filling in the forms with our step-by-step video tutorial, *Applying for Your STRP Pension*, where we explain how to complete each form. You can follow along at your own pace or jump to the form you need help with. It's available anytime, anywhere to make retirement that much easier for you. And you don't need to visit the office in person as our retirement application forms have recently been revised and no longer require notarization.

TELL US WHAT YOU WANT, WHAT YOU REALLY, REALLY WANT!

We know pension news isn't as exciting as a 90s pop hit, but your feedback helps us create content that's relevant to you. Do you want more retirement planning tips? Pension education? Funding updates? Something else entirely?

Email us your suggestions at stf@stf.sk.ca. Don't leave us hanging like it's 1996!

SASKATCHEWAN TEACHERS' FEDERATION

STRP UPDATE

Need more information? Contact us at:

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This publication contains general information only. In the event of any discrepancy in interpretation, error or omission, the applicable legislation and *Plan Text* are the final authority.

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