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**CBA National Pensions and Benefits Law Section
Meeting with Finance Canada
Thursday, February 18, 2015, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Agenda**

Finance Canada representatives: Lynn Hemmings, Senior Chief, Financial Sector Division,
Financial Sector Policy Branch
Bob Snell, Economist

Time: 1.0 hour

Agenda*

1. Welcome and Introductions (2.5 minutes) Michael Wolpert
2. General Questions (5 minutes) Elizabeth Brown
3. Federal and Provincial Legislation (5 minutes) Lyne Duhaime
4. Target Benefit Plans (15 minutes) Jeff Sommers
5. Amendments to Pension Standards Legislation and Regulations (15 minutes) Sonia Mak
6. Pooled Retirement Pension Plans (15 minutes) Tina Hobday
7. Wrap-up (2.5 minutes) Michael Wolpert

*See Appendix A below for a list of questions corresponding to the agenda items.

Appendix A Questions

General Questions

- What does the CBA see as the key legal issues or trends related to pensions in 2016 and beyond?

Federal and Provincial Legislation

- In the CBA's view, are there recent legislative changes introduced by the provinces that the federal government should consider?

Target Benefit Plans

- What are the CBA's views on the lawsuits in New Brunswick regarding the conversion of retirees' defined benefits to benefits under a shared-risk plan?
 - Lawsuits: *Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada v. Province of New Brunswick*; *Clifford Kennedy Jr. Violate Savage, Deborah McCormack and Rita Dunnett (Pension Coalition New Brunswick) v. Province of New Brunswick*
- What are the CBA's views on consent requirements for the conversion of accrued defined benefits to benefits under a target benefit/shared risk plan?
- What are the CBA's views on the proposals in the Ontario Ministry of Finance's July 2015 consultation paper on target benefit multi-employer pension plans, entitled "Regulatory Reform for Target Benefit Multi-Employer"? In particular, what are the CBA's views on the following:
 - the fact that the proposed target benefit plan framework is limited to multi-employer plans;
 - the exemption from solvency funding;
 - the requirement for member representation on the Board, as well as possibly requiring independent trustees; and
 - the requirement for target benefit plans to have a governance policy?

Amendments to Pensions Standards Legislation and Regulations

- What are the CBA's views on B.C. and Quebec's recent legislative amendments to allow for the purchase of annuities that fulfil the plan's obligation to provide a pension?
 - Quebec's legislation provides that annuitants would be treated as members for the purpose of surplus and deficit if the plan terminates within three years following the purchase. However, in B.C. there is no transition period where annuitants would share surplus or deficits. What are the CBA's views on these differing approaches?

- What are the CBA's views on Ontario's proposal to remove the rule that restricts pension funds from holding more than 30% of the voting shares of a company (30% rule)?

Pooled Retirement Pension Plans (PRPPs)

- The CBA has been recommending harmonization in various submissions on PRPPs at the federal and provincial levels. What progress (if any) has been made?
- The fees benchmark for PRPPs has been set at the level applicable to defined contribution plans with at least 500 members. What is that level currently? Has Finance had any issues with, or received any complaints about, PRPPs not satisfying the "low cost" requirement?
- Can Finance comment generally on the following:
 - Is it as popular among employers as hoped? How many employers have signed up?
 - The number or percentage of eligible employees who have opted out of participating in the PRPP offered by their employer?
 - The number or percentage of employers offering PRPPs that have elected to make employer contributions to the plan?
 - The number or percentage of individual members (i.e., self-employed or employees with employers that do not offer a PRPP) who have elected to participate in a PRPP?
- Should employers expect further regulations or guidance from Finance on (a) permitted investments; (b) investment options; and (c) disclosure obligations to employees about costs?