

17 September, 2007

Ontario Expert Commission on Pensions  
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Via Email: [info@pensionreview.on.ca](mailto:info@pensionreview.on.ca)

### **Revitalizing the Defined Benefit Pension Plan**

The Canadian Federation of Pensioners (CFP) most warmly welcomes the mandate given to the Ontario Expert Commission on Pensions, particularly in regards to the issues, challenges and opportunities affecting defined benefit pension plans (DB plans). CFP looks forward to having the Commission reflect on the views and ideas of DB plan retirees who were not participants in previous studies and updates of pension legislation and regulations in Ontario.

CFP is a young and growing organization whose active groups and associate groups comprise of approximately 100,000 DB plan retirees. Our members have first-hand knowledge of the benefits of DB plans and sincerely want to see this type of pension plan continue and grow in size and number for the benefit of current and future generations of Canadians.

At the same time, current DB plan retirees have become increasingly aware of the risks posed by weaknesses in the current DB plan model. These weaknesses encompass a whole range of issues, from threats to financial security posed by DB plan solvency deficiencies, to sponsors being put into creditor protection or being declared bankrupt, to employers who have closed their DB plans to new members, and to sponsors who don't keep plan beneficiaries informed on the financial status of their DB plans.

Coincident with the formation of the Ontario Expert Commission on Pensions, CFP formed a working committee to review the weaknesses with the current DB plan model and existing legislation and to develop proposals on how DB plans could be improved for the benefit of all pension plan stakeholders. This review has lead to the preparation of the enclosed brief being submitted to the Commission for its consideration.

The CFP brief includes some major proposals for enhancing the DB plan model and in doing so has identified the benefits along with recommendations for implementation. CFP looks forward to making a presentation to the Commission on 13 November, 2007 at its public hearings in Hamilton.

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CFP grants permission to the Ontario Expert Commission on Pensions to distribute its brief as required and to post it on the Commission's website. CFP welcomes all opportunities to meet and review any aspects of its brief with members of the Commission, its advisors, and/or researchers at any time before or after the hearings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hanson", written in a cursive style.

John Hanson, Chair  
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Enclosure