



## RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

### What is a retirement annuity?

The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba (WCB) sets aside funds for eligible workers in a retirement annuity account. This fund is intended to assist workers with their retirement income if it is affected by a work related injury or illness. Generally the annuity is payable at the earlier of age 65, or when the WCB has determined that a worker has retired from the workforce, but not before age 55.

### How is the retirement annuity funded?

The annuity is funded by the WCB; however, workers may also elect to make contributions to the fund.

### Who is eligible for a retirement annuity?

You may be eligible for a retirement annuity if:

1. You have received wage loss benefits for a minimum of 104 weeks; and
  2. Your employer pension was affected by the compensable injury
- OR
- Your injury employer had no pension plan.

### How does the retirement annuity work?

The amount the WCB sets aside depends on the amount (if any) your employer was contributing before the injury, and the amount they are still contributing to your pension plan.

### Are my weekly benefits affected by the annuity amount set aside by the WCB?

The amount the WCB sets aside **is not** deducted from your wage loss benefits.

### How much can I contribute to the retirement annuity?

You can contribute any amount up to the same amount the WCB is contributing. The amount you choose to contribute **is** deducted from your WCB wage loss benefits.

### Can I increase or decrease the amount of my contribution?

Once you have made the decision to contribute or not, this decision cannot be changed.



### **What rate of interest does the retirement annuity account earn?**

The retirement annuity account earns interest at the same rate as the book rate of return on WCB investments.

### **How is the retirement annuity paid?**

Annuities are paid as a lump sum at the time of your retirement. However, a monthly payment option is available if your annuity balance has reached a certain level. In 2021, this level is \$18,100.

### **What are the factors that determine the monthly payments I will receive?**

The monthly amount you will receive from your retirement annuity account will depend on your circumstances. Factors considered when calculating the monthly payment of an annuity are:

- the type of annuity you've selected
- the amount of contributions made
- your age and
- future interest rates.

### **What happens if I die before I am able to collect the annuity?**

If you die before you reach retirement age, your surviving spouse or common-law partner will receive the full value of your retirement annuity account up to the date of your death (your contributions and interest **plus** the WCB's contributions and interest).

If you die before you reach retirement age and you do not have a spouse or common-law partner at the time of your death, your estate will receive the value of your retirement annuity account up to the date of your death, based on the date of your injury.

### **Will I receive regular statements of my retirement annuity account?**

Every year in June, you will receive a statement that provides details about the balance in your retirement annuity account as of December 31 of the previous year. This statement shows your total contributions (if any), the WCB's contributions and the amount of interest earned in the previous calendar year.

### **Can I transfer my retirement annuity into a registered plan?**

The WCB retirement annuity **is not** a registered plan, therefore it **cannot** be transferred into a registered plan.



You should notify the WCB of any change in address, so that the WCB can continue to send you these retirement annuity account statements.

If you have any further questions about annuities, please call (204) 954-4321 or toll-free 1-855-954-4321.

This publication is provided for general information. It is not intended to be legal advice, and should not be relied on as such. For more specific information, see *The Workers Compensation Act and Regulations and WCB Policies*. These documents are available on the WCB website at [wcb.mb.ca](http://wcb.mb.ca).