

Retirement Pension. Should her husband not be in receipt of a Retirement Pension at the time of his death, such a pension is calculated in prescribed manner for the purposes of computing the amount of the Widow's Pension. If a woman is widowed under age 45, the same pension is paid provided she has dependent or disabled children or is herself disabled. If she does not meet any of these requirements, her pension is reduced by an amount equal to 1/120 for each month she is less than age 45 at the time of her husband's death. Accordingly, if a woman is widowed at age 35 or less, and has no dependent or disabled children and is not herself disabled, she will not receive a Widow's Pension until she reaches 65 years of age, unless she becomes disabled in the meantime.

A widow age 65 or over receives a Widow's Pension equal to 60 p.c. of her husband's Retirement Pension. This is true for a widow regardless of her age at the time her husband died or whether she was receiving a Widow's Pension before she became 65. Again, if her husband was not in receipt of a Retirement Pension at the time of his death, one is calculated in prescribed manner in order to compute the amount of the Widow's Pension. Women who receive Widows' Pensions may also have contributed to the Canada Pension Plan themselves and consequently may be entitled to Retirement or Disability Pensions in their own right. In such cases, the Widow's Pension will be combined with the other pension, in accordance with a prescribed formula, but the combined total cannot exceed the maximum Retirement Pension payable under the Act.

Orphans' Benefits are payable on behalf of a deceased contributor's dependent children. The rates are the same as the benefits for the children of a disabled contributor. A Disabled Widower's Pension is payable where a widower is disabled and is wholly or substantially dependent on his wife for financial support at the time of her death. The test of disability is the same as that for a person who claims a Disability Pension and the pension formula is the same as that for a disabled widow. When a contributor dies, a lump sum Death Benefit equal to six times his monthly Retirement Pension will be paid to his estate. This benefit is subject to a maximum of 10 p.c. of the maximum on pensionable earnings which, in 1967, would mean a payment not exceeding \$500. Should a contributor not be in receipt of a Retirement Pension at the time of his death, a calculation is made in prescribed manner for purposes of establishing the amount of the Death Benefit.

The Plan provides for the periodic adjustment of a number of its basic components. The maximum on pensionable earnings for 1966 and 1967 was set at \$5,000 a year. Until 1976, this maximum is to be adjusted in line with changes in the Pension Index which, in turn, is based on the Consumer Price Index. Beginning in 1976, the maximum on pensionable earnings will be adjusted in accordance with changes in the Earnings Index which will reflect changes in average wage and salary levels in Canada. The flat-rate components of Disability, Widows' and Disabled Widowers' Pensions, as well as the flat-rate benefits payable to the dependent children of disabled or deceased contributors, are also subject to adjustment by the Pension Index before going into pay. After benefits become payable, the amounts will be subject to periodic up-dating in accordance with increases in the Pension Index.

Any contributor or beneficiary under the Plan has the right to appeal decisions with which he is dissatisfied. Appeals by employees and employers regarding coverage and contributions are first made to the Minister of National Revenue and, if the individual is not satisfied with the Minister's decision, he may then appeal to the Pension Appeals Board whose decision is final. For self-employed persons, appeals with reference to the assessment of their earnings for Canada Pension Plan purposes are treated in the same way as appeals under the Income Tax Act. With respect to benefits, there is a three-stage appeal procedure: first, to the Minister of National Health and Welfare; secondly, to a Review Committee; and thirdly, to the Pension Appeals Board whose decision is final.

The legislation provides for the investment of the funds that accrue from monthly contributions, less the estimated amounts required to pay benefits and administrative costs over a three-month period. These funds are made available to each province on the basis of the relationship between the contributions made to the Plan by and on behalf of