

## NEW RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

**Members who changed plans on or after April 1, 2004**

A new reciprocal transfer agreement applies. This gives you the option of transferring your service from the prior reciprocal plan to your current plan. Once made, a transfer cannot be reversed.

### *If I transfer my service, what happens?*

If you meet the eligibility conditions and submit an application form before the deadline, the plan you left will transfer funds to your current plan. Your current plan will grant you additional service in place of your service in the former plan and you will receive a single pension from your current plan at retirement or termination. Such a transfer may have tax implications. You can obtain details about these during the transfer application process.

### *Am I eligible?*

To be eligible, you must:

- have terminated from the former plan on or after April 1, 2004,
- have not received a benefit from the former plan, including a refund of your own contributions, and
- have accumulated at least six months of contributory service in your current plan.

### *How do I elect a transfer?*

In order to transfer service, you must complete an application form and submit it to your current plan administrator within 12 months after the date you accumulated six months of contributory service in your current plan. To obtain a form, please refer to the contact information on the BC Pension Corporation website at [www.pensionsbc.ca](http://www.pensionsbc.ca)

### *If I transfer, will I get as much service in my current plan as I had in the former plan?*

Because pensions from different plans have different values, the service granted in your current plan may be less than the service you had in the former plan. If so, you will have the option to pay for the difference within 12 months after the transfer and receive credit for service in your current plan exactly equal to the service you accrued in your former plan. Note that the existence of a "shortfall" in service does not necessarily imply a loss in accrued pension. If your starting salary in the new plan is higher or the pension formula is better than the former plan, your prior accrued pension may be provided with less credited service in the new plan.

### *What happens if I do not elect to transfer my service?*

If you do not elect to transfer your service by the above deadline, you will permanently lose your opportunity to do so. You will remain a member of both plans and, on retirement or termination, each will pay you a separate benefit. Your service in both plans will not be combined for determining eligibility for early retirement and other benefits.

### *Is it always to my advantage to transfer my service?*

No. Many factors may affect this decision. In order to make an informed choice, we suggest you consult with an independent financial advisor.

This is intended as an overview of reciprocal transfers between the BC public service pension plans and the SD43 Non-Teaching Pension Plan. It is not intended to replace advice from a qualified financial advisor. Questions should be directed to the Pension Coordinator or Pension Clerk, who can be reached at the SD43 Board Office at 604-939-9201