

INFORMATION SHEET

Death Before Retirement

If you die before you start receiving your pension, the Universities Academic Pension Plan (UAPP) will pay a benefit to either your spouse or other last-named beneficiaries. If you were a contributing member of the UAPP on or after January 1, 2001 and die, the benefit that will be paid is illustrated in the table below.

	Service before 1994	Service after 1993
If the member was age 55 or over at the date of death, then the spouse receives a pension for life (a). If the member was under age 55, the surviving spouse can choose benefit (a) or (b). A beneficiary other than the spouse receives benefit (b) only.	(a) Pension for life	
	(b) Payment of commuted value plus any excess member contributions OR payment of your contributions and interest PLUS employer contributions and interest, whichever is greater	(b) Payment of commuted value plus any excess member contributions OR 1.75 times your contributions and interest, whichever is greater

PAYMENT OF DEATH BENEFIT

The pension payable for life in (a) above is payable to your spouse for the spouse's lifetime and a choice among different options with varying guarantee periods will be offered to your spouse.

The payment outlined in (b) above shall be paid to your spouse as a transfer to a Locked-in Retirement Account. For non-spousal beneficiaries, including your estate, the payment shall be paid as a taxable cash refund.

DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY

When you join the UAPP, you should fill out a *UAPP Designation of Spouse and Non-Spouse Beneficiary* form. It is important that you complete and file the form with your employer so that the UAPP knows who is to receive the death benefits if you die. This form should be updated whenever your family situation changes.

If you have a spouse (see definition below), your spouse is automatically your beneficiary, unless your spouse has completed and filed with the Plan prior to your death, a *Pension Partner Waiver of Entitlement to a Death Benefit Before Pension Commencement in a Pension Plan* form under the UAPP. Even if you have a spouse, it is still helpful to complete the *UAPP Designation of Spouse and Non-Spouse Beneficiary* form.

If you do not have a spouse, or your spouse has waived their right to the death benefits, you may designate any person(s) or entity as your beneficiary. In the absence of a beneficiary designation or a spouse, your benefit will be paid to your estate.

When the beneficiaries are dependent minor children, the benefit payment is made in the care of the children's Trustee until the children reach adulthood.

As estates may be complex and there may be tax implications associated with the beneficiary you elect, it is advisable to obtain professional advice before designating your beneficiary.

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DEFINITION OF SPOUSE

For clarity, the definition of spouse is as follows:

- a. A person to whom you are legally married and from whom you have not been living separate and apart for 3 or more consecutive years, or
- b. If there is no person under a), a person of either sex who has lived with you (i) in a marriage-like relationship for the 3 years immediately preceding the relevant time, or (ii) in a relationship of some permanence for the period immediately preceding the relevant time if you and that person are, together, the natural or adoptive parents of a child under the laws of Alberta; or
- c. If there is no person under a) or b), and you have not filed with the Board a prescribed declaration, a person to whom you were married but from whom you have been separated for more than 3 years.

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UPDATED

If you leave employment and choose a deferred pension from the UAPP, keep your *UAPP Designation of Spouse and Non-Spouse Beneficiary* form and the addresses of your beneficiaries up-to-date with the UAPP, so there are no unnecessary delays in the payment to your beneficiaries.

Make sure your family or your executor knows you are entitled to a benefit from the UAPP.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO THE READER:

This Information Sheet is designed as a quick summary of the subject. Should anything in this Information Sheet conflict with the UAPP Sponsorship and Trust Agreement, or any applicable provincial or federal legislation, the Agreement and/or the legislation shall apply.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Call the UAPP Administration Centre toll-free at 1.866.709.2092 if you have further questions. Information Sheets on other pension topics are available on the UAPP's website at www.uapp.ca (under Publications).