

Volunteer role description

Public Service Pension Advisory Committee — pensioner observer

Do you want to be part of a team of staff and volunteers who share your passion for retirement income security for federal retirees and their dependents?

The opportunity

A Federal Retirees pensioner representative sits on the Public Service Pension Advisory Committee (PSPAC). We are seeking one qualified candidate to participate as an observer in an informal, voluntary role that supports the PSPAC pensioner representative.

The observer will attend and observe PSPAC meetings. While the successful candidate will not have decision-making authority, they will be consulted by and will be an important member of the Federal Retirees team working on PSPAC matters.

This is a developmental opportunity, and participation in the Observer Program may support succession planning and identify potential/future pensioner representative nominees for this important committee.

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What we're looking for

The successful candidate is a member of Federal Retirees and is in receipt of a pension under the *Public Service Superannuation Act (PSSA)*.

We are seeking individuals who want to enhance or increase their experience, or who have experience, in the following areas:

- On boards, committees, or advisory bodies.
- In leadership, ideally with managerial or executive leadership experience.
- Knowledge of pensions, pension principles and plan design, as well as pension funding and financing.
- Understanding of the environment in which the federal government and its pensions/benefits plans operate.
- Excellent communication skills and interpersonal skills, and demonstrates respect in fostering trusting, collegial environments that produce sound advice, and where diverse opinions and perspectives are valued.
- The ability to think strategically and consider the big picture.
- Has sound judgement, tact, ethical standards, and integrity.

We are actively seeking volunteer candidates who are members of diversity and equity-deserving groups, including women, individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous or Persons of Colour (BIPOC), people with disabilities, and members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

The successful candidate will also understand the importance of retirement income security for federal retirees and their dependents

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What you can expect

The role is voluntary and is not remunerated. Individuals from across Canada are encouraged to apply, as the PSPAC meetings are hybrid. Individuals located in Ottawa may attend in person.

The duration of this role will be 18 months, starting as soon as practicable.

There are typically five meetings held throughout the year, which may require some additional preparation such as reviewing complex material. Some additional time may be required if there are particularly difficult issues to review ahead of meetings, and some time at the outset will be required to complete onboarding and participate in training opportunities.

The observer will also be required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Diversity and equity are important principles. Candidates will be asked to self-identify both as part of this application and should they become the successful candidate.

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The importance of representation

Good organizations value all their members, but we know that opportunities to participate in advocacy, governance and other roles haven't always been accessible to everyone. Ensuring all our members can participate in opportunities like this one isn't just the right thing to do. Boards and committees that reflect the full diversity of their membership perform better, make better decisions and have a broader reach that helps prevent gaps in decision-making.

The Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer is embracing the 50-30 Challenge to build more inclusive boards and committees that reflect Canada's diversity, including with the Public Service Pension Advisory Committee (PSPAC). Federal Retirees is proud to contribute to this objective.

The 50-30 Challenge aims to achieve gender parity (50 percent women or non-binary people) and significant representation of members of other equity-deserving groups (30 percent representation by people who identify as BIPOC, people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+ and gender and sexually diverse individuals).

About Federal Retirees

The National Association of Federal Retirees (Federal Retirees) is the largest national advocacy organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and retired federally appointed judges, as well as their partners and survivors. Federal Retirees volunteers are active representatives of pensioners' interests on many government and official boards, committees and councils, from the PSHCP Partners Committee to the PSPAC.

With close to 170,000 members, including more than 60,000 veterans and their families, the Association has been advocating for improvements to the financial security, health and well-being of our members and all Canadians since 1963.

We believe every Canadian, today and in the future, should benefit from better retirement income security and a strong, sustainable health-care system.

About the PSPAC

The Public Service Pension Advisory Committee (PSPAC) is established under the *Public Service Superannuation Act*. The committee's mandate is to review matters respecting the administration, design, and funding of the federal public service pension plan; make recommendations to the minister responsible (the Treasury Board president); and review other pension-related matters that the minister may refer to it.

The committee consists of:

- One pensioner representative, nominated for appointment by an association that, in the minister's opinion, represents pensioners.
- Six employee representatives, nominated from among employee representatives on the National Joint Council.
- Six other members nominated by the minister.

PSPAC representatives are appointed by the Governor in Council for a term not exceeding three years and are eligible for reappointment for one or more additional terms.

[More information about the PSPAC is available.](#)