



Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada
Association Canadienne de la Police Montée Professionnelle

Member Communication

This is the tenth in a series of communications from MPPAC, the Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada. Visit [our website](#) for more information on how you can [become a member](#), and to access our [previous messages](#).

DEAR COLLEAGUES

The Supreme Court of Canada has recently agreed to hear the public sector associations' appeal relating to the government's appropriation of public service pension funds for use in reducing the federal deficit. This fight for fairness has gone on for many years, and will continue through to a decision by Canada's highest court.

PUBLIC SECTOR UNION'S \$30 BILLION PENSION FIGHT

This fight began in 1999, when three separate groups challenged the government's new legislation to use surplus funds from the public service pension plans.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada headed a challenge together with a number of other associations, as did the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, and a last group that included the Mounted Police Association of Ontario, The British Columbia Mounted Police Professional Association, L'Association des Membres de la Police Montée du Québec, the Armed Forces Pensioner Association, and the Canadian Association of Professional Employees.

Together, we fought a legal battle to make the government accountable for the use of our pension funds.

The reason other public sector employees have mobilized around this issue is simple: together with the government, and in accordance with pension legislation, we pay into the pension fund to build our retirement. However, when a surplus built up in the plan, the government used it for its own benefit. As contributors to the pension fund, and therefore contributors to the surplus, this is not fair to the members of the RCMP — or other public service employees.

The government made these legislative changes for its own benefit and without reference to our interests. This is the kind of conduct that would not be tolerated by the private sector, in which pension funds are often governed by trust agreements in addition to pension legislation enforced by regulators.

We lack these protections and have therefore turned to the courts for help.

The government has taken approximately \$30 billion dollars from our pension funds. That is money that could have been used to reduce our contributions or increase our benefits. It was a pool of funds we contributed to, and for which we have received no benefit. We are hopeful that the Supreme Court of Canada, in granting leave to hear the appeal, will share our views and order the government to provide compensation.

While the SRRs and the Legal Fund have chosen not to defend you and fight this fight, we believe that it is an important issue, and one worth pursuing.

We will continue to work with other public sector representatives to seek a fair outcome for the government's unilateral appropriation of our pension funds.

SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS IN TORONTO AND VANCOUVER

Our congratulations go out to our colleagues in Toronto and Vancouver, whose professional police associations have successfully negotiated improved compensation packages for their members.

The Toronto Police Association negotiated an 11.5% increase over the next four years (retroactive to 1 January 2011), making their force the highest paid in the country. This will bring the pay for a first class constable to \$90,623 by 2014 for a force of approximately 5,600 officers.

The Vancouver Police Association just obtained an 8.8% increase, effective for the period March 2008 to December 2012, for its members. This brings the pay for a first class constable to \$86,002 for a force of approximately 1,300 officers.

Excellent results have been achieved through these strong professional associations for their members. All negotiating parties have reported satisfaction in these outcomes which place these police services at the head of the pack for compensation.

In Toronto and Vancouver, the associations have provided the strength and the leadership to achieve results for their members. We believe that RCMP members want to enjoy the same benefits of association, and we look forward to the opportunity to be able to provide that same strength and leadership in negotiations with our employer.

WHY BECOMING A MEMBER TODAY IS SO IMPORTANT

As our last few messages have explained, MPPAC is preparing to commence collective bargaining after the court imposed stay of proceedings expires. We intend to proceed regardless of whether or not the government provides a legislative framework for negotiating.

If you want to be part of this collective bargaining process, you must be a member of the association. Our members are already working together to help shape our agenda going forward and you can, too.

Simply [visit our website to register online or download the form](#). It's fast and simple!

It's your RCMP, it's your future, you can make a difference!