

Benefits Bulletin

Maritime Life 

Bulletin No. 2, February 2004

Information Update for Group Benefits Plan Sponsors

Government Benefit Update for 2004

The following charts highlight federal government changes to Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS) benefit rates, which came into effect January 1, 2004. Changes to the Employment Insurance Program (EI) also changed as of January 1st. We have included 2003 figures for your comparison.

Canada/Quebec Pension Plan (Monthly)	CPP 2004	QPP 2004	CPP 2003	QPP 2003
Retirement Pension				
· at age 60	569.92	569.92	560.88	560.88
· at age 65	814.17	814.17	801.25	801.25
Disability Pension	992.80	992.80	971.26	971.26
Disabled or Deceased Contributors' Child (to age 18 ONLY) Benefit	192.68	61.18	186.71	59.28
Surviving Spouse				
· under age 55	454.42	670.76	444.96	687.45
· age 55 to 64	454.42	704.90	444.96	700.06
· age 65 or older	488.50	488.50	480.75	480.75
Death Benefit (payable in one lump sum)	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE)	40,500.00	40,500.00	39,900.00	39,900.00
Yearly Basic Exemption (YBE)	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Maximum earnings on which contributions are based (YMPE-YBE)	37,000.00	37,000.00	36,400.00	36,400.00
Maximum Annual Contributions				
· Employee	1,831.50 (4.95% of \$37,000.00)	1,831.50 (4.95% of \$37,000.00)	1,801.80 (4.95% of \$36,400.00)	1,801.80 (4.95% of \$36,400.00)
· Employer	1,831.50 (4.95% of \$37,000.00)	1,831.50 (4.95% of \$37,000.00)	1,801.80 (4.95% of \$36,400.00)	1,801.80 (4.95% of \$36,400.00)
· Self Employed	3,663.00 (9.9% of \$37,000.00)	3,663.00 (9.9% of \$37,000.00)	3,603.60 (9.9% of \$36,400.00)	3,603.60 (9.9% of \$36,400.00)

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Type of Old Age Security Benefit (Monthly)	2004	2003
Basic Old Age Security Pension	\$462.47	\$449.32
Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)		
· Single	\$549.63	\$533.99
Spouse/Common-law partner of:		
· a non-pensioner	\$549.63	\$347.82
· a pensioner	\$358.01	
· an Allowance recipient	\$358.01	
Spousal Allowance		
· Age 60-64, married to someone receiving GIS	\$797.14	\$785.33
· Age 60-64, widowed	\$880.06	\$867.02

Employment Insurance Benefits	2004	2003
Maximum Annual Insurable Earnings	39,000.00	39,000.00
Employee Maximum Annual Contribution	772.00	819.00
Employer Maximum Annual Contribution	1,081.00	1,147.00
Employee Premium Rate (per week)	1.98 per \$100 (of insurable earnings)	2.10 per \$100 (of insurable earnings)
Employer Premium Rate (1.4 x employee rate, per week)	2.77 per \$100 (of insurable earnings)	2.94 per \$100 (of insurable earnings)

**Figures as of 17/12/03 Sources: CLHIA and Government of Canada. MLAC does not guarantee the accuracy of the figures herein.*

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We welcome your comments and suggestions on the Benefits Bulletin. Email us at groupbulletins@maritimelife.ca

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