



MEMBER SPOUSAL INFORMATION AND BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

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Complete this form and return it to OPTrust if you are an active, deferred or divested member of the OPSEU Pension Plan and you wish to update your spousal information and/or designate a beneficiary before you start receiving a pension. **Please read the important information on page 2.**

A – Personal Information

Last Name		First Name	
OPTrust ID or Employee Number	Email or Telephone	Date of Birth (Day-Month-Year)	
Mailing Address	City/Town	Province	Postal Code

Spousal Information

Your “spouse” is automatically entitled to survivor benefits under the Plan and is first in line ahead of any other beneficiary you designate, unless they choose to waive their entitlement. **Please read the definition of “spouse” on page 2.**

Spouse’s Last Name	Spouse’s First Name	Date of Birth (Day-Month-Year)
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B – Other Beneficiaries

You may designate any person or organization as a beneficiary. If you designate more than one beneficiary, any benefits payable will be divided equally among them. **Do not designate your spouse as a beneficiary unless they do not meet the definition of spouse (see page 2).**

1 First Name or Organization Name	Last Name	Email or Telephone
Relationship to You		Date of Birth (Day-Month-Year) <i>as applicable</i>

2 First Name or Organization Name	Last Name	Email or Telephone
Relationship to You		Date of Birth (Day-Month-Year) <i>as applicable</i>

3 First Name or Organization Name	Last Name	Email or Telephone
Relationship to You		Date of Birth (Day-Month-Year) <i>as applicable</i>

C – Declaration

I hereby certify that I have read the information on this form and the information I have provided is true and accurate. I understand that any benefits payable to my spouse or beneficiary(s) will be subject to the terms of the OPSEU Pension Plan and applicable legislation in effect at the time of my death. I understand that the beneficiary designations above will revoke any previous beneficiary designations I have made by paper form, online or in a Will for any benefits that may be payable by OPTrust upon my death.

Signature	Date (Day-Month-Year)
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D – Important Information

Survivor benefits are normally payable in the following order:

1. your spouse
2. your eligible children (if applicable)
3. your designated beneficiary(s), or
4. your estate.

Spouse

Under pension law, your spouse is entitled to survivor benefits when you die and takes priority over any other beneficiary you designate, unless your spouse chooses to waive their entitlement. For pension purposes a “spouse” is someone who you are married to or have been living with in a common-law relationship for at least three years, or a shorter period if you are in a relationship of some permanence and are the parents of a child. For your spouse to qualify for a benefit, you must be living together and not be separated at the time a determination is being made (i.e., at date of retirement, or date of death if you die before retirement).

If you and your common law spouse do not have a child together, you must be living together continuously for three years before they qualify for a survivor benefit. If you want to ensure that your common law spouse receives a survivor benefit in the event you die during this three-year period, you may designate them as a beneficiary. Once your spouse meets the definition of spouse, it is a good idea to update your beneficiaries.

Eligible child

An “eligible child” is under the age of 18 or, if over the age of 18, is in continuous full-time attendance at a secondary school or postsecondary institution for up to five years following secondary school.

Survivor benefits if you die before retirement

If you die before retirement, a lump sum amount equal to the value of your pension is payable. If you have a spouse, they will have the option to receive this amount in the form of an immediate or future lifetime pension, or as a lump sum payment that can be transferred to an RRSP on a tax-sheltered basis or paid in cash less withholding tax.

If you do not have a spouse or your spouse has waived their entitlement to the pre-retirement survivor benefit, the lump sum amount is paid in cash, less withholding tax, to your designated beneficiary(s), or to your estate if you did not designate a beneficiary.

If you were a member of the Plan before 1987 and you don't have a spouse, your eligible children may be entitled to a survivor pension as long as they remain eligible. This situation is now very rare.

Survivor benefits if you die after retirement

Survivor Pension: If you have a spouse at the time you start receiving your pension, they are entitled to receive a lifetime survivor pension after you die. If you don't have a spouse but you have eligible children, the survivor pension is split among them for as long as they qualify.

A survivor pension will not be payable if:

1. you do not have a spouse when you retire and you do not have any eligible dependent children, or
2. you and your spouse waive their right to a survivor pension by signing a Waiver of Joint and Survivor Pension form prior to your pension beginning, or
3. your spouse dies before you.

Residual Balance: Upon your death or the death of your survivors, whichever occurs later, a residual balance may be payable. If the total of your contributions plus interest at your date of retirement exceeds the total pension payments received by you (and your survivors if applicable), the difference is payable as a lump sum cash payment, less withholding tax, to your designated beneficiary(s), or to your estate if you did not designate a beneficiary. Usually this will be depleted within five years.

Designating a beneficiary in a Will

Any beneficiary designations you make on this form may revoke and replace any beneficiary designations you made in a Will that was signed and dated before you completed this form. Likewise, the beneficiary designations you make on this form may be revoked and replaced by a Will that is signed and dated after you complete this form. If you designate beneficiaries for your OPTrust pension in a Will, please provide a copy to OPTrust.