

Get the facts. Save your pension.

Do you work for a city, a school board, or in children's aid/child welfare? If so, you need to know that OMERS, your pension plan, is undergoing fundamental restructuring that has compromised your retirement.

While structural reforms were necessary to improve transparency, Ford's new legislation, introduced by Bill 68, compromises the autonomy of our plan and the bargaining power of its members. If you were ever going to participate in a union campaign, this is the one!

What's changing, and why should I care?

Historically, OMERS operated under a dual-board system: a Sponsors Corporation responsible for benefits and contributions, and an Administrative Corporation managing investments. CUPE Ontario supported the dissolution of the Sponsors Corporation because its governing corporate law framework prevented sponsors from accessing vital information necessary for informed decision-making.

However, the replacement of the Sponsors Corporation for a Sponsor's Council has introduced unprecedented levels of government intervention:

Expanded Government Control

The amended OMERS Act reinserts the government back into OMERS. References to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing are made over 40 times, granting the provincial government extensive regulatory power.

Regulatory Vulnerability

Critical voting structures, which help CUPE Ontario's voice remain somewhat proportional to its 40% membership share, are not protected by statutory law.

Instead, the Ford government has created "regulations" that the government can alter at its discretion without notice or consultation.

Loss of Self-Governance

The agreement defining the Sponsor's Council's operations is no longer authored by the sponsors themselves; it is now subject to direct approval and modification by the government.

What are the Implications for Long-Term Retirement Security?

The governance of these sponsor structures is not merely an administrative detail; it is the foundation of the entire pension promise.

The Sponsor's Corporation holds the exclusive authority to determine:

- Contribution Levels - The amount of deferred wages workers must divert to the fund.
- Benefit Structures - The formula that determines future retirement income.
- Inflation Protection - The continuation of indexing to ensure pensions maintain their purchasing power over time.

For more than a decade, members have faced attempts to diminish benefits and restrict bargaining rights. By centralizing power within the provincial government, the current administration is creating a "weaker and more dangerous foundation" for the plan, moving away from the joint-sponsor model that should represent those who actually contribute to the fund.

The Necessity of Collective Advocacy

Pensions are deferred wages. They are the earned compensation of workers, not the government's property. Because OMERS is bargained at the plan level, rather than at local tables, maintaining a strong, unified voice through the Sponsor's Council is essential for ensuring members control their own financial futures.

The "We Pay, We Want a Say" campaign is a direct response to this interference. Its primary objective is to force the provincial government to respect the autonomy of the pension plan and the unions that bargain on behalf of its members.

OUR OMERS

WE PAY!

**WE WANT
A SAY!**

What should I do to support the campaign? Does my involvement actually matter?

Yes, without plan members raising their voices, nothing will change!

This is about more than signing an e-action (which is important!). It's also about talking to your coworkers about the importance of having control over your money in OMERS and getting them to sign.

Additionally, reach out to other plan members in your community, perhaps those you know from your child's hockey practice or the local drama club, wherever you meet them.

Ultimately, all plan members need a strong voice in their pension plan. Your role is to build a strong force to push the provincial government to do the right thing; remember, NO OTHER PENSION PLAN has seen this level of government interference!



**LEARN MORE AT:
cupe.on.ca/we-pay-we-want-a-say/**