

Dear Colleagues,

The MRFA Executive knows that many of you are confused and concerned about the proposed LAPP changes. At the November General Meeting, ACIFA President Doug Short explained the changes, described ACIFA's proposed response, and answered questions. The minutes and notes of the meeting, which were approved at last Friday's Executive meeting, and Doug Short's presentation are posted with the [meeting documents](#). Additional information about the proposed changes is available in the [October President's Report](#).

The MRFA Executive has not received the expected draft ACIFA response, and we are unable to represent accurately diverse concerns in a collective response because members are concerned in diametrically opposed ways. Some are alarmed about the reduction in benefits, especially cost of living adjustments, which are being proposed in order to limit contribution rates and pay off the unfunded liability. For others, the principal concerns are that 30% of their contributions are directed towards the unfunded liability and that they cannot plan properly for the future because the pension plan may not be sustainable.

We encourage you to respond individually. Many individual responses will have much greater impact on the government than a collective MRFA response. Some of the ways to respond are:

1. Send your comments to pensionreform@gov.ab.ca by December 31, 2013.
2. Submit a protest letter to politicians from the website [Defending Alberta Pensions](#).
3. Write a letter to [your MLA](#).

The elements of the proposed ACIFA response are on slide 35 of the LAPP Presentation, which is posted with the November General Meeting documents. Two points that could have been added are:

- improve inflation protection (inadequate inflation protection can drastically decrease the value of a pension, and inflation protection was reduced in the proposed changes because it is a significant contribution cost); and
- implement joint sponsorship first, and then let the employees and employers decide on the changes.

Best regards,
Gerry

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