

# what happens if...



Musicians' Pension Fund  
of Canada

## I get divorced?



The end of a marriage brings a great deal of change. Below is important information about how it may affect your Pension Plan benefit.

Your pension benefit may be part of the settlement with your ex-spouse, so here are a few things you should know.

- **If you are not vested in a pension benefit**, you are not entitled to a benefit and neither is your ex-spouse.
- **Your pension benefit may or may not be a part of your separation agreement/divorce settlement.** The value of the potential pension benefit settlement may be offset by the value of another asset.
- **If your pension benefit is to be part of your settlement, contact the Fund Office and ask for a commuted value calculation of your benefit.** This will give you the appropriate amount to be included in your settlement. When you call, you will need to provide the date of your marriage, your separation date, and the birth dates, names, and addresses of the two parties. The Fund Office may charge a fee of up to \$1,000 for this calculation, depending on the amount allowed by the province in which you live. The fee charged does not cover the full cost of the calculation.
- **Once you have a separation agreement or divorce decree**, send a copy to the Fund Office, even if your pension benefit is not part of the settlement. This way, you won't have to provide this information at the time of your retirement.
- **Each province has its own rules about the definition of a spouse** and the amount that an ex-spouse may be entitled to in a divorce.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

**If you are getting a divorce, you should:**

1. Seek qualified legal counsel.
2. Provide the Fund Office with the dates of your marriage and separation, and the birthdates, names and addresses of both parties.
3. The Fund Office will tell you the amount of the fee, if any, for the divorce-settlement-related valuation of your Pension Plan benefit.
4. Pay the fee, if applicable.
5. The Fund Office will provide you with the value of your benefit on the date of separation.
6. You should provide the Fund Office with a copy of your separation agreement or divorce decree.

