

Forces Pension Modernization Project



CPL PHIL CHEUNG, 32 CANADIAN BRIGADE GROUP

CFB PETAWAWA—Pte Peter Levine guards the front gate of Forward Observation Base Steadfast during Exercise VIGILANT GUARDIAN 2006. More than 2500 Reserve Force personnel from across Ontario engaged in an intensive program of combat preparedness, including medium-intensity fighting across a range of simulated environments, security/stabilization operations, and humanitarian assistance. For more photos taken during Exercise VIGILANT GUARDIAN, go to www.combatcamera.forces.gc.ca/common/combatcamera/find_e.asp.

From CFPN

As of January 1, 2007, all Reserve Force employment will fall under the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). So, if you are a member of the Reserve Force whose annual earnings are more than the annual basic exemption set under the CPP (currently \$3500), you are now contributing to the CPP on the same basis as any other Canadian worker earning more than the basic exemption, regardless of the nature or the length of your Reserve service.

- Check out the CF Pension Modernization Project website at www.forces.gc.ca/hr/dgcb/cfmp/engraph/home_e.asp or at http://hr.d-ndhq.dnd.ca/dgcb/cfmp/engraph/home_e.asp for more information on Res Force personnel CPP contributions. You may submit specific questions to your unit pay clerk.

Director Accounts Processing Pay and Pensions (DAPPP) Pensions Services will be notifying all Reserve Force personnel who have met eligibility thresholds for

participation in CF pension arrangements. If you are a member of the Reserve Force, you will also be notified when you are eligible to elect to count your prior periods of Reserve Force service for pension purposes. Web-based calculators will be available to you for estimating the cost of purchasing previous earnings and forecasting future benefits.

- Keep an eye on www.admfincs.forces.gc.ca/pension/intro_e.asp for information updates on Prior Service Buybacks for Reservists.

Finally, call centres are being readied to receive your general pension questions, and queries about eligibility and elections. You will be advised of call centre telephone numbers once the pension modernization initiatives receive final approval.

- Consult Canadian Forces General Messages (CANFORGENs) 176/05 and 060/05 at http://vcds.dwan.dnd.ca/vcde-exec/pubs/canforgen/intro_e.asp for background information. ♦

If you are planning for a year, sow rice; If you are planning for a decade, plant trees; If you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.

Chinese proverb

Educating CF children – planning for a lifetime

By Col Jo-Anne MacDonald, Director General Compensation and Benefits (DGCB), and Mr. Don Ferguson, Directorate of Compensation Benefits Administration (DCBA-5)

If you are expecting a posting in 2007, you probably already have an idea about what to expect and when, work-wise.

Your children, who will be entering new schools, may be less sure of what's in store for them. You can help ease their uncertainty by spending some time researching the school district, and schools, that will be available to them.

Initially, you should determine which of the many characteristics of a school and a school district will best meet your children's needs. You may be interested in the academic performance of students at the schools in the district, for example. Or programs for special-needs students, courses offered, teacher turnover rates, graduation requirements, the availability of special resources, the size of the school population, the number of students per class, dropout rates, graduation rates, and so on.

You can also learn how parents regard the schools their children attend, and how

the schools are regarded by the community.

The high school experience is an especially complicated and challenging landscape, and even more so for highly mobile children of the CF. High school students will be more interested in records transfer, interpretation systems of former schools' credits at the new school, subjects offered, and school calendars, schedules, standards, opportunities and extracurricular activities.

Each military student is unique; he or she is a child, first, and connected to the military, second. Repeated relocations and the resulting new school situations bring a particular set of challenges and daunting unknowns – and opportunities. It's tough being the "new kid" over and over again, regardless of the circumstances and the age of the student.

The teachers and counsellors at your children's new school(s) can do only so much. You, as parents, are the best counsellors because you know your children – their educational and social needs and wants.

So, start early, get your children involved, and plan ahead. Working

together, you and your children, no matter what their ages, can make this transition smooth, and the benefits of a smooth transition last a lifetime.

Useful resources

On the DGCB's Dependent Education Management website at www.forces.gc.ca/dgcb/educat/, check out:

- Education Screening and Schooling Facilities - Education Benefits Outside Canada at engraph/screening_e.asp.
- Education Of Dependent Children Of Members Of Places Of Duty In Canada at engraph/edu_in_canada_e.asp.
- Education Allowance Outside Canada at engraph/outside_canada_e.asp.
- Education Facilities Location Guide in Canada at engraph/facloc_in_canada_e.asp.
- Information on Alumni of former DND Overseas Schools at engraph/alumni_e.asp.



- Canadian Education Internet Sites at howto/engraph/Howto17_e.asp#2.

For additional information, visit:

- Allied Forces North (AFNORTH) International School at www.afno-is.eu.dodea.edu/.
- Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) International School at www.nato.int/shape/community/school.htm. ♦

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