



ANNUAL REPORT – DECEMBER 31, 2023

For the ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY PENSION TRUST FUND OF ALBERTA



ECAA

Electrical Contractors
Association of Alberta

Plan Administrator:

Employee Benefit Funds Administration Ltd.

4211 – 95 St NW

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 5R6

www.ebfa.ca



ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY PENSION TRUST FUND OF ALBERTA

To: All Plan Members, Pensioners, and ECAA Contributing Employers

We are pleased to present our Annual Report highlighting the activities and progress of the Pension Fund to December 31, 2023.

This Fund results from Collective Agreement between Local Union 424 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta (ECAA). The Pension Fund is for the benefit of those Employees working for unionized contractors and is supported solely by Employer Contributions.

In 2023, 292 new Pensioners and Beneficiaries were awarded monthly pensions. This makes a total of 4,280 Pensioners and Beneficiaries who received pension benefits as of December 31, 2023. In addition, 76 commuted values were paid to terminated Plan Members, former Spouses, and Beneficiaries. The 2023 annual net rate of return on Pension Fund assets was 9.7%, and the year-end balance was close to \$1.74 billion.

An actuarial valuation was completed by the Pension Fund's Actuary, showing the status of the plan as at December 31, 2022. The valuation showed the Fund to be in a solid financial position, being funded at 128.2% on a going concern basis and 150.2% on a solvency basis. The valuation was filed with the Superintendent of Pensions.

The Trustees consistently and prudently oversaw the invested resources of the Fund, working with their Investment Consultant and Investment Managers. The Board supported the recommendations made by a joint Alberta/British Columbia expert panel to amend Alberta's current Provisions for Adverse Deviation (PfAD) structure for multi-employer pension plans by submitting a Support Letter to the Alberta Government.

The new Employee Benefit Funds Administration Ltd. (EBFA) website was launched in May 2023, which included a members' portal for access to personalized information. Trustee Kelly E. Morris presented at the ECAA AGM as well.

In June 2023, Trustees Brian Townsend and Timothy Brower were re-elected as Chair and Co-Chair, respectively. A new *Pensioner Statement* was approved by the Trustees, resulting in an easier-to-read format.

The Joint Pension and Health & Welfare Governance Review Committee continued their review, which included items related to delinquency and risk management.

EBFA Executive Administrator Brian Hamblin announced his retirement. The Board thanked him for his exemplary work and took appropriate steps to navigate this transition.

One of the most exciting announcements of the year was the one-time pension benefit improvement of 5%, effective January 1, 2024. This was applied to all benefit accruals up to December 31, 2023, and future benefit accruals for hours worked on and after January 1, 2024.

Audits have been performed on the records of the Fund. The complete Financial Statements are kept on file at the Fund Office.

Yours very truly,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR PLAN BENEFITS

For the Year Ending December 31, 2023 (in thousands)

Additions

Contributions	\$	19,465
Investment Income		75,560
Gain on investments		93,584
Admin Fees and Other		<u>13</u>

Total Additions **188,622**

Deductions

Retirement Benefits	49,984
Termination Benefits	2,658
Death Benefits	975
Investment Expenses	14,595
Administration Expenses	1,194
All other Expenses	1,025

Total Deductions **70,431**

Increase in Net Assets **118,191**

Net Assets Available for
Plan Benefits at Beginning of Year **1,620,946**

Net Assets Available for
Plan Benefits at End of Year **\$ 1,739,137**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31, 2023 (in thousands)

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	14,156
Contributions Receivable		1,379
Goods and Services Tax Rebate		94
Investment Income Receivable		752
Investments		1,724,123
Prepaid Expenses		<u>324</u>

Total Assets **1,740,828**

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable		<u>1,691</u>
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**Net Assets Available
For Plan Benefits** **\$ 1,739,137**

Actuarial Valuation as at December 31, 2022

Going-Concern Surplus \$ 342,952,000

The Plan is 128.2% funded on a going- concern basis as at December 31, 2022.

Solvency Excess \$ 541,006,000

The Plan is 150.2% funded on a solvency basis as at December 31, 2022.

Trustees' Fees and Expenses

Trustees are paid for attendance at Board Meetings, educational conferences, and time spent on specified Fund business, in accordance with an established remuneration policy. In addition, Trustees are reimbursed for reasonable expenses, travel, meals, and accommodations required as a result of the duties assumed. In 2023, there were 18 Board of Trustee meetings (including 3 held jointly with the Electrical Industry Insurance Benefit Trust Fund of Alberta), 2 committee meetings, and 6 education conferences (in 2022 there were 15 Board of Trustee meetings, 1 committee meeting, and 3 education conferences).

	2023 (in thousands)	2022 (in thousands)
Trustee' fees	\$206	\$ 179
Trustee expenses	<u>43</u>	<u>35</u>
Total	<u>\$249</u>	<u>\$ 214</u>



Board of Trustees (January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023):

Timothy Brower
Brian Halina
Kelly E. Morris
Kevin Levy
Michael A. Reinhart
Brian Townsend

Actuary: Ellement Consulting Group

Investment Managers: Blackrock (Private Equity)
Brookfield Asset Management (Global Real Estate, Private Debt, Infrastructure)
CBRE Investment Management (Infrastructure, Private Equity)
Fiera Capital Corporation (Global Equity, Canadian Equity)
Global Infrastructure Partners (Infrastructure)
IFM Investors, LLC (Infrastructure)
J.P. Morgan Asset Management (Infrastructure)
LetkoBrosseau Global Investment Management (Canadian Equity)
MGG Investment Group LP (Private Debt)
Macquarie Asset Management (Infrastructure)
Partners Group (Private Equity)
PH&N Institutional (Bonds)
Romspen Investment Corporation (Private Debt)
Sustainable Growth Advisers LP (Global Equity)
TD Asset Management (Canadian Real Estate)

Equity Position: Ellement Master Limited Partnership

Investment Consultant: Ellement Consulting Group

Custodian: RBC Investor & Treasury Services

Auditor: Donnelly & Co. LLP

Legal Counsel: Lawson Lundell LLP

For any Trustee that resigned in the fiscal period covered by this Annual Report, this Annual Report constitutes the report contemplated by section 29 of the Trustee Act (Alberta).