Statement of Facts

The Plan

The Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan (the "Plan") is established by the *Teachers' Pension Act*[1] (TPA). The TPA provides that the Plan is a defined benefit pension plan within the meaning of the *Pension Benefits Act*[2] (PBA). The TPA provides that the governing documents for the Plan are the pension plan established under Schedule 1 to the TPA, along with such other governing documents as may be created or adopted under the TPA or the text of the pension plan.

Section 5 of the TPA provides that the contributions of the Province of Ontario ("Ontario") and contributing employers, on one hand, and active Plan members on the other hand, are to be approximately equal.

Section 10 of the TPA provides that the Minister of Education and the executive of The Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) may enter into an agreement that provides for, among other things, the joint management of the Plan and the sharing of entitlement to gains or surplus under the plan and of liability for deficiencies in the pension fund.

The Minister of Education and the OTF have entered into an agreement for the management of the Plan (Partners Agreement), to which is appended a Funding Management Policy (FMP) that is deemed to form part of the agreement.[3] The FMP provides for the funding of the Plan and how deficits and surpluses will be addressed.

Ontario's accounting for the Plan

As a joint sponsor of the Plan, Ontario accounts for its share of the assets, obligations and pension expense/(recovery) in accordance with the guidance in section 3250, Retirement Benefits.

Ontario has a pension asset recorded on its financial statements related to the Plan in the amount of $10.1 Billion as of March 31, 2016.

Accounting Guidance

PS 3250 requires

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[1] R.S.O. 1990, c. T.1

[2] R.S.O. 1990, c. P.8

[3] Partners Agreement, section 110.

.052 A government may benefit from an accrued benefit asset either by withdrawing surplus assets **or** by taking a contribution holiday **or** receiving a refund of contributions. The accrued benefit asset may become impaired when there is a plan surplus for accounting purposes that the government is not entitled to benefit from fully. For example, there may be a regulatory moratorium on pension surplus withdrawals or uncertainties as to a government's legal right to use a plan's accounting surplus.

.053 To determine the extent to which an accrued benefit asset may be impaired, the government first determines the adjusted benefit asset. The adjusted benefit asset is the accrued benefit asset less net unamortized actuarial losses (determined on a basis using market value of assets).

.054 The adjusted benefit asset is then compared to the expected future benefit. When the expected future benefit exceeds the adjusted benefit asset, the accrued benefit asset is not impaired and, accordingly, no valuation allowance is required. The chart included as Appendix A to this Section is intended to set out the relationship between the various defined terms.

.055 The objective of the standard in paragraph PS 3250.050 is to limit a government's accrued benefit asset to the amount it can realize in the future. The expected future benefit is a calculated amount representing the benefit a government expects to realize from a plan surplus. An expected future benefit includes any withdrawable surplus or reduction in future contributions.

.056 A government determines its expected future benefit as the sum of:

a. the present value of its expected future accruals for service for the current number of active employees, less the present value of required employee contributions and minimum contributions the government is required to make regardless of any surplus; and
b. the amount of the plan surplus that can be withdrawn in accordance with the existing plan and any applicable laws and regulations.

.057 A government's expected future accruals for service for the current number of active employees are determined on a basis consistent with that used to determine its accrued benefit obligation. These expected future accruals for service, less required employee contributions and minimum contributions the government is required to make regardless of any surplus, are then discounted back to the current period to determine the present value. The interest rate used to calculate this present value is the expected rate of return on plan assets used to determine the benefit expense in the period.

.058 When administration expenses are paid by the plan and included in the normal cost calculation, a best estimate of the future administration expense is included in the expected future accruals for service. When administration expenses are paid by the plan and not included in the normal cost calculation, the rate of return on plan assets is adjusted to reflect the deduction of the administrative expenses.

.059 A key factor in determining a government's expected future benefit from a defined benefit plan with a plan surplus for accounting purposes is the ability of the government to withdraw assets from the plan. The expected future benefit includes amounts to which a government has a legally enforceable right of withdrawal. It excludes any withdrawable plan surplus a government is currently required, or intends, to allocate to employees. A government may not anticipate obtaining a legally enforceable right to withdraw a portion of a plan surplus to which it is not currently entitled, whether on the basis of precedent or otherwise. Accordingly, when withdrawal of plan surplus requires the approval of employees or an appropriate regulatory authority or a court of law, a government excludes any amount subject to this restriction from its expected future benefit until such approval has been obtained. A change in the allocation of surplus between a government and its employees is incorporated into the calculation of the expected future benefit only when it has been agreed to and, when required, approved by the appropriate regulatory authorities.