

Information about the Deferred Salary Leave Plan (DSLPL)

Province of New Brunswick
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Introduction

The Province of New Brunswick introduced a Deferred Salary Leave Plan (DSLP), effective 1 January 1990. It is designed to allow you to finance a leave of absence for any reason, subject to the approval of your employer and the terms and conditions of the Plan.

The main aspects of the Deferred Salary Leave Plan, which are outlined in this booklet, will introduce you to this program, and will answer a number of questions that you might have concerning this Plan.

The information contained in the following pages is meant as a summary only. Should additional information be required, please contact your Human Resource staff or Treasury Board.

Plan Summary

The DSLP is designed to help you plan and finance a leave of absence for any reason, whether you elect to continue your educational studies, travel or pursue some other interest.

The Plan offers you the advantage of financing your leave of absence by deferring a maximum of 33 1/3% of your gross salary (before deductions). To offer this advantage, the Plan must comply with Revenue Canada regulations and the *Income Tax Act*. While you are making contributions to the Plan, income tax is payable only on that portion of salary which you actually receive.

The period, over which you defer your salary, cannot be less than one year, and may not exceed six years. While you are deferring a portion of your salary to fund a leave of absence, your contributions are deposited into an account with the NBT Credit Union Ltd. This account accrues compounded interest monthly and must be included as income in the year, in which it is earned.

The minimum period of leave is 6 months, the maximum is 12 consecutive months and will normally commence as soon as the deferral period expires. You are required to return to work for the same period of time as your leave, and as such, the DSLP cannot serve as an early retirement program.

You may choose to participate in the program in accordance with the options reproduced below:

	<u>Contribution Period</u>	<u>Timing of Leave</u>
(i)	2 years	3 rd year
(ii)	3 years	4 th year
(iii)	4 years	5 th year
(iv)	5 years	6 th year
(v)	6 years	7 th year

Enrollment

The custodian of your trust account is the NBTA Credit Union Ltd.

To enroll in the Plan, you must become familiar with the terms and conditions of the Plan, and discuss your proposed participation with your supervisor. You must make written application to the Deputy Minister or Chief Executive Officer at least six months in advance, requesting permission to participate. Entry date into the Plan for deductions will be either January 1st or July 1st of a given year. You will find an application form at the end of this booklet.

You will receive written approval or denial (with explanation) of your request within three months of your written application. Approval of your request will be dependent upon finding a satisfactory replacement during the period of absence.

Eligibility

You are eligible to apply for the DSLP if you fulfill the following qualifications:

- Are an employee of the Province of New Brunswick as defined under the *Public Service Labour Relations Act*;
- Have at least 12 months of continuous service; and
- Are an approved non-bargaining employee in Part I or Part III or a member of an approved bargaining group.

To determine if your bargaining group has been granted approval to participate in this Plan, please consult Treasury Board, your Human Resource staff, or your Collective Agreement.

Salary Deferral Period

While you are deferring a portion of your salary to the DSLP, you will continue to receive your normal salary, LESS the amount you have chosen to contribute to the Plan. Contributions for the Canada Pension Plan and Income Tax will be deducted from the actual amount received. Employment Insurance and Pension Plan Contributions during each year of the deferral period shall be made on the basis of what your salary would have been had you not entered the Plan. All other premium deductions (i.e. Group Life Insurance, Health, Travel and Dental, etc.) shall continue as usual.

Salary During Leave Period

During your leave of absence period, your gross annual salary will consist of the sum of the contributions that you made to the DSLP during your deferral period plus the accumulated interest on that amount. Income slips for completion of your tax return will reflect the amount of your payments only, as interest income information slips will be issued yearly by the NBTA Credit Union Ltd.

You will receive your salary through your normal payroll procedures. During your leave period, income tax and contributions to the Canada Pension Plan will continue to be deducted at a rate that corresponds to your earning levels. In addition, any other authorized deductions for your benefit programs will continue to be deducted from your salary.

During the leave period, your status will be that of an employee on leave without pay. As such, the provisions and cost-sharing arrangements with respect to benefit programs will be consistent with employer policy or Collective Agreements. Generally, pension plan documents allow for the purchase of a leave period upon your return to work. Inquiries related to the purchase of service for pension credit should be directed to your Human Resources office immediately upon your return.

Income Tax Implications

Some basic income tax issues pertaining to the Plan are outlined below for your information.

1. During your deferral period, income tax will be deducted at the rate in effect for your reduced income level. During your leave of absence, similar income tax deductions will be made in accordance with your salary level at that time (exclusive of interest payments).
2. During both your deferral and leave periods, your employer will continue to deduct contributions for Canada Pension and Income Tax. You should be aware that during your deferral and leave periods, you will be continuing to contribute to these two programs on your reduced salary. In many cases reduced earnings will still exceed maximum earnings under the Canada Pension Plan.
3. While you are on your leave of absence, Revenue Canada will not allow you to receive salary amounts, other than your deferred earnings, from your Employer.

Withdrawal from the Plan

Once approved for participation in the Plan, you will be permitted to withdraw prior to the leave period, only under exceptional circumstances as outlined below:

- Extreme financial hardship (requires 3 months' notice)
- Death
- Total and permanent disability
- Transfer to another position and continuation in the program is not approved
- Lay-off
- Termination of employment

Upon receipt of permission to withdraw from the plan, you will receive a refund of your contributions plus accrued interest. This refund will be made as soon as possible, but not later than 90 days from approval to withdraw.

Administrative Expenses

There are no administrative expenses associated with your participation in this program.

Return from Leave

On return from leave, you shall be assigned to the same or equivalent position held immediately prior to going on leave. You will be eligible for the same step in the salary scale, in accordance with the leave-without-pay policy.

Effect on Related Benefit Programs

Benefit Program	Status During Deferral Period	Status During Leave Period
Pension	Contribution required on same basis as employees not in program (i.e., on full salary, not salary received)	No contributions are paid during the leave period. Employees can apply to purchase the leave period upon return to work. Refer to pension plan document.
Health and/or Dental Plans	Employer cost-sharing arrangement as usual	Coverage continuation is optional for up to a maximum of 12 months - employee is responsible for full cost of premium payments.
Group Life Insurance	Coverage based on full salary, not salary received. Employer cost-sharing as usual.	Coverage continuation is optional for up to a maximum of 12 months - employee is responsible for full cost of premium payments. Coverage amount cannot change during the leave period.
Voluntary Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance	Optional participation Employee pays full cost of premium	Coverage continuation is optional for up to a maximum of 12 months - employee is responsible for full cost of premium payments.

Effect on Related Benefit Programs (Continued)

Benefit Program	Status During Deferral Period	Status During Leave Period
Long Term Disability Insurance	Coverage and premiums based on full salary, not salary received	Coverage continuation is optional for up to a maximum of 12 months - employee is responsible for full cost of premium payments. Coverage and premiums reflect full salary immediately prior to commencement of leave.
Union Dues	Payable	Not payable during leave period
Income Tax	Payable on the portion of salary actually received	Payable only on the portion of salary actually received
Canada Pension Plan	Payable on the portion of salary actually received	Payable on the amount of payment received
Employment Insurance	Payable on full salary, not only on the portion of salary actually received	Not payable during leave period

Deferment Worksheet

The following will assist you with your financial planning of your leave of absence.

Deferral period: _____

Leave Period: _____

Deferral Period	No. of pay periods over which salary is being deferred in calendar year	Basic salary per pay period	Percentage of basic salary to be deferred ¹	Annual Contribution(s)
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Entry year (_____ X \$ _____) X _____ % = \$ _____
No. of pay periods

X Number of years deferred (not to exceed 6) _____

= Total Contribution(s) \$_____

Divided by Number of pay periods during the leave period

Income per pay period during leave \$ _____²

Notes: 1. Cannot exceed 33 %

2. This is calculated at entry-year dollars as it is assumed the interest rates will compensate for salary increases.

Please see example on following page:

Questions & Answers for Prospective Participants

1. May I take up other employment during my leave?

You may be employed while on leave; however, it cannot be with the New Brunswick Provincial Government. Also, bear in mind that while on leave from the Public Service, you are still expected to respect the Conflict of Interest policy with regard to accepting alternate employment.

2. What if I am unable to take leave as planned?

If you are unable to proceed on leave at the precise time requested, you may seek your manager's approval, on one occasion only, to advance or delay your leave by up to six months.

A subsequent inability to proceed on leave would necessitate withdrawal from the program.

Withdrawal from the program prior to taking leave will result in a higher marginal tax for most employees and consequently a higher amount of income tax to pay.

3. What happens, should I die while enrolled in the plan?

It will be a term of the agreement that the deferred salary plus the compounded interest total will be paid to the estate of the participant.

4. Can my manager cancel or delay my scheduled leave?

Your manager may, where significant unforeseen operational circumstances occur, delay your leave by up to six months. Inasmuch as the Deferred Salary Leave plan provides for ample lead time for planning, such instances should be rare exceptions.

5. What if I am unable to return to work after my leave?

Your return to work is agreed to as part of your participation in the Deferred Salary Leave Plan. Should you transfer to another government department or another employer on completion of your leave, your return to work commitment will be deemed to have been fulfilled. Similarly, if you become disabled or too ill to return to work, this provision will be waived.

Questions & Answers for Prospective Participants (Continued)

Notwithstanding the above, should you fail to fulfill the return to work commitment, the employer will be obliged to advise Revenue Canada in order to protect the ongoing participation of other employees.

6. What is the maximum amount of salary I can defer?

The maximum amount of salary which can be deferred is 33-1/3% of the gross salary based upon your classification and level.

It is recommended that employees defer a sufficient amount to sustain an average level of remuneration just prior to the leave; i.e., if you deferred 15% of salary, you would retain 85% of your salary prior to the leave, and should plan to contribute three years to sustain an equivalent payment from the trust account for a six-month self-funded leave period.

7. Can I be laid-off while participating in the Deferred Salary Leave Plan?

Deferred Salary Leave participants will normally return to their substantive positions on return from Deferred Salary Leave. Nevertheless, participation in DSLP provides no guarantee that work force adjustment will not have an effect on positions over time. An employee participating could, in effect, be laid off and subsequently be placed on a redeployment list -- the same as if he/she was actively at work.

8. How does Leave without Pay affect continuous employment for the purpose of calculating retirement allowance, vacation leave, sick leave and pay increments?

Please refer to the appropriate Personnel Policies or relevant articles in your Collective Agreement.

9. Can my manager refuse to allow my participation in the plan?

Managers must review applications in light of operational feasibility. Most requests will be approved with the exception of multiple requests for a single time frame, which may require review and deferral to a subsequent date. All conditions being equal among the applicants for such leave, seniority will be taken into consideration for approval.

Questions & Answers for Prospective Participants (Continued)

10. Is there any particular time when applications must be submitted?

Entry into the Plan will take place on either January 1st or July 1st of each year, and applications for such must be submitted six months in advance.

11. I can afford to put only 15% of my salary aside. Can I still participate?

Yes, you may participate by deferring 15% of your salary. However, you would need to defer this amount for approximately six years in order to sustain a level or remuneration equivalent to 85% of your pre-Leave Salary, to fund a 12-month leave.

12. How will my money be administered by the NBTA Credit Union Ltd.?

Your trust account will be set up by the Custodian as an interest bearing chequing account. Options to the method of investments may be made available as the Plan matures, but no change will be made without your written permission.

13. How is interest credited to my account and how will I know how much has accumulated?

All deferred salary shall be forwarded to the NBTA Credit Union Ltd., and shall accumulate interest calculated on the minimum accumulated monthly balance.

The interest paid shall be calculated by averaging the interest rates in effect on the last business day of each month for: a true savings account; a one (1) year term deposit; a three (3) year term deposit; and a five (5) year term deposit. The rates for each of the accounts identified shall be those quoted by the Prospect Street Branch of the Bank of Montreal, Fredericton, N.B. Interest shall be deposited to the appropriate account on the last day of each month.

Note that you will be taxed on a current basis on the interest or other amounts that accrue while you are in the plan. Statements showing all receipts, disbursements, interest credited, and all other pertinent information will be issued annually to all participants, prior to the end of January. At the same time, you will receive all information statements required by Revenue Canada with respect to reporting of interest income.

Application for the Deferred Salary Leave Plan



APPLICATION FOR THE DEFERRED SALARY LEAVE PLAN

TO: Deputy Minister/Chief Executive Officer		Department/Institution or Agency	
FROM: Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Surname	Given Name	Middle Name
Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>			
Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>			
Home Address		Postal Code	
Work Location			
Classification		Bargaining Group	
Social Insurance Number		Date of Birth	Home Phone Work Phone

Please accept my application to enter the Deferred Salary Leave Plan as outlined in the regulations governing the plan. My application is submitted under the following conditions:

(1) EFFECTIVE YEAR OF PLAN _____

a) I wish to enroll in the Deferred Salary Leave Plan with the first deferment commencing with the first pay period in _____

b) I wish to enroll in (check one).

	Contribution Period	Timing of Leave	Portion of Salary to be deferred
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 years	3 rd year	_____ %
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 years	4 th year	_____ %
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 years	5 th year	_____ %
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 years	6 th year	_____ %
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 years	7 th year	_____ %

c) I wish to purchase _____ months of leave covering the period _____ to _____

d) I understand that I may continue my Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Long Term Disability coverage for up to 12 months, but my Health and Dental coverage can be continued for up to 6 months, only.

Initial

(2) The Employee shall be held harmless at any liability or action arising out of the operation of this Deferred Salary Leave Plan

Date Signature

APPROVED BY:

Date Deputy Head / Chief Executive Officer or Designate

FORWARD TO: Treasury Board
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Account Number (Leave Blank)

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Web site address :

<http://www2.qnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/ohr-brh/pdf/pensions/forms/dsl16-e.pdf>