

Date:

Dear Mr. / Ms. _____, MLA,

I am a City of Calgary employee and a member of the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP). I am writing to address some concerns I have with the current governance model applied to the LAPP. I think that it is very important to note that LAPP is the largest pension plan in Alberta with roughly 250,000 members, therefore impacts many Albertans.

The current governance structure identifies the Minister of Finance as the Plan Trustee and Administrator. This model gives no direct decision making role to the stakeholders in the plan. I feel that the people that bear all the risk, the employers and the employees that pay into the plan, merit some input into the decisions impacting their future. The Minister of Finance has many responsibilities that result in him having to "wear many hats," to carry out the required duties. I believe that as a consequence of this, conflicting priorities emerge.

The conflicting priorities that I reference were especially evident in 2013. The Progressive Conservative government, unilaterally decided that changes were required to the LAPP due to an unfunded liability. The changes were proposed to the Board of Trustees of LAPP and the proposal was not supported. The Boards' decision was based on an actuarial review, indicating the plan was currently improving and would be fully funded by 2018. The PC government responded by attempting to push through legislation that would allow the changes to be implemented contrary to the Board's recommendations. It was the heavy public backlash that finally forced the government to rescind the proposed legislation. This attack on my pension will not soon be forgotten, which is why it is imperative that the current government remove the politics from my pension.

The Board of Trustees of the LAPP is an equitable representation of the stakeholders to the plan, who better to decide what is best for the plan? The unfunded liability has been nearly eliminated, as the plan sits at 95% funded today. The reasonable request I have is for this government to allow the LAPP to be self-governed by this highly capable body. Time is of the essence to make these changes at the legislature, if you won't fight for the working people, what government will?

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this issue, and if you would support this legislation, when it is introduced.

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Email address: