

### **Better Pensions for Law Firm Employees**

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# Agenda

- 1. The Coverage Issue
- 2. DB vs DC Plans
- 3. Better Defined Contribution (DC) Plan Designs
- 4. Monitoring DC Providers
- 5. Keys to Successful DC Management

#### 1. The Coverage Issue



http://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/eng/oca-bac/fs-fr/Pages/rpp\_rpa\_2018.aspx

1. The Coverage Issue

Summary:

Less than 23% private workforce covered
 Most law firms have no pension arrangement
 Law firms with pension arrangements have DC arrangements

□Most generous are 4+4 plans

# 2. DB and DC Plans Comparison

	Defined Benefit	Defined Contribution	
Purpose	Provide a lifetime pension income	Provide savings	
Employer Contributions	Variable (whatever the cost is)	Fixed	
Employer Financial Risk	High	Low	
Employer Legal Risk	Low	High	
Investment Decisions	Professionally Managed	Do-It-Yourself	
Cost of Benefits	??	??	

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# **DB** is less costly

DB plans deliver the same \$1 of pension income at 48% less cost than individually directed DC plans. The drivers for cost savings are:

 Obtain scale, eliminate member choice, pool investment risk and investment cost

> Save 27%

 Maintain balanced portfolio through retirement

> Save 11%

Pool longevity risk
 Save 10%

In other words, contributions must be 92% higher in an individually directed DC plan to produce the same \$1 of retirement income as a DB Plan. Figure 1: Cost of DB and DC Plans as a Percentage of Payroll



*Source: Still a Better Bang for the Buck*, National Institute on Retirement Security, Washington, DC, 2014

# Xi is 35 & saves 8% per year

Contributions					
	Rate	Year 1	Year 30		
Employee	4%	\$2,800	\$4,972		
Employer	4%	\$2,800	\$4,972		

 TBP vs DC Plan – Annual Pension at age 65

 \$30,000
 \$25,359

 \$20,000
 \$18,268

 \$15,000
 \$18,268

 \$10,000
 \$5,000

 \$ 

Professionals Plan (indexed by 2% each year after age 65)

DC Plan (indexed by 2% each year after age 65)



#### Xi

Age: 35 Projected service: 30 years Earnings at age 35: \$70,000

#### DC Plan ASSUMPTIONS (per year):

Balanced investment return (net of all fees): 4.0% Annuity conversion rate (non-indexed): 3.0% Pension indexed at: 2.0% per annum Pension guaranteed for first 60 payments

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Investment Decisions	Professionally Managed		Do-It-Yourself	
Cost of Benefits	Low	$\bigotimes$	High	

## **Better DC designs**

- 1. Multi-Employer
- 2. Administrator Directed Investment
- 3. Annuity Alternatives
  - Advanced Life Deferred Life Annuities (ALDA)
  - Variable Payment Life Annuities (VPLA)

# **Monitoring DC Providers**

Concentrate on 3 areas:

- 1. Fees
- 2. Provider Selection and Monitoring
- 3. Outsourcing Arrangements
  - OCIO
  - Delegated Fiduciary

#### Fees

#### □ Fees are a litigation target

- □ The issue is, are you paying too much ?
- 1% too much can reduce an individual's total savings by 25% over a 40 year savings period (2% = 40% reduction)
  - Selection of higher priced retail mutual funds, when lower-fee institutional funds are available
  - Fee dynamics: different fee structures complicate apples-toapples comparisons
  - Ancillary fees: account opening and closing, transfers, transaction fees, account monitoring fees,

#### Fees

- 1. Up-front charges
- 2. Charges based on contributions
- 3. Charges based on funds under management
  - Individual and group
- 4. Switching and transfer charges
- 5. Exit charges
  - Sales of retail products (RRSPs)
- 6. Annuitisation charges

## **Provider Selection and Monitoring**

#### □ Significant effort on selection

- Comparison with alternative candidates
- Performance often a priority
- Consider services and fees
- Monitoring process less clear cut
  - Frequency?
    - Annual, quarterly, monthly
  - How thorough?
  - When should new selection process be initiated?

**Outsourcing Arrangements** 

- OCIO
  - Outsourced Chief Investment Officer
  - "Delegated Fiduciary"
  - No matter what they tell you: the employer retains full responsibility for oversight
- Multiemployer plan
  - Transfer of fiduciary responsibility to administrator

## Pension Provision: Key Success Factors

- 1. Governance Appropriate governance structure and diligent oversight
- 2. Managed as a professional business
- 3. Scale

## Questions

