Maximizing Your CPP and OAS

A Practical Guide to Getting the Most From Your Government Pensions.

The Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security form the foundation of most Canadians' retirement income. When and how you start them can make a meaningful difference to how much you receive over your lifetime.

Understanding your options, and coordinating them with your other income, helps you get the most from these valuable, inflation indexed benefits.

How Timing Affects Your Pensions

You can start CPP as early as 60 or as late as 70, and OAS from 65 to 70.

Taking CPP before 65 permanently reduces it by 0.6% per month (up to 36% at age 60), while delaying past 65 increases it by 0.7% per month (up to 42% at age 70). OAS increases 0.6% per month if deferred, up to 36% at age 70. Delaying can pay off if you expect a long retirement.

2026 Maximum Monthly Amounts

- **CPP retirement pension (age 65)** — Up to $1,507.65 per month, though the average new pension is closer to $877.
- **OAS (ages 65 to 74)** — Up to $751.97 per month for the July to September 2026 quarter.
- **OAS (ages 75 and over)** — Up to $827.17 per month, reflecting the permanent 10% top-up at 75.
- **Indexing** — Both CPP and OAS are adjusted for inflation, protecting your purchasing power.

CPP by Start Age (Illustrative)

Start Age	Adjustment	Effect on Monthly Amount
Age 60	–36%	Lowest monthly payment, paid longer
Age 65	Standard	Full calculated pension
Age 70	+42%	Highest monthly payment, paid later

How the age you start CPP affects your payment (concept only)

Watch the OAS Clawback

Higher-income retirees can lose part or all of their OAS to the recovery tax.

For the July 2026 to June 2027 period, OAS is reduced by 15 cents for every dollar of net income above $93,454 (based on 2025 income), and fully clawed back around $152,062 for those aged 65 to 74. Pension income splitting, TFSA withdrawals, and careful RRIF planning can help keep your income below the threshold.

Coordinating With Your Other Income

CPP and OAS work best as part of a complete plan. Coordinating them with RRIF withdrawals, pensions, corporate withdrawals, and investment income can lower your lifetime tax, reduce the clawback, and help your overall income last.

How We Help With CPP and OAS

Deciding when to start your government pensions is one of the most important retirement decisions you will make. We help you model the timing, manage the OAS clawback, and coordinate CPP and OAS with your other income for the best lifetime result.

Pax Portfolio Advisory Team

We're delighted that you are interested in learning more about our services. The name PAX is Latin for peace, and our goal over more than 50 years of combined experience has been to simplify your wealth and provide you with lasting peace of mind.

Trixie Rowein,

B.COMM, FMA, CFP®, CIM®

Senior Portfolio Manager, Financial Advisor

Known for her commitment to community and clients for 25 years at Raymond James. Responsible for **investment strategy, client communication, educational seminars,** and **charitable initiatives**. She specializes in guiding clients through life transitions, including retirement and loss of a spouse. Trixie has two daughters and speaks Spanish. She enjoys travelling, gardening and scrapbooking.

Taylor Cooper,

B.COMM, CIM®, TEP

Associate Portfolio Manager, Financial Advisor

Works closely with clients to implement **comprehensive financial** and **estate plans**. He also facilitates **portfolio management, trade execution**, and conducts **stock market analysis.**Taylor previously played semi-professional hockey in the Western Hockey League and later competed as a student-athlete with the University of Alberta Golden Bears.

Matthew Moellenbeck

Licensed Financial Advisor Assistant

Responsible for managing **all client account information**, coordinating **regular income distributions**, and **developing financial plans**. He's currently working towards his CFP designation and serves as the primary point of contact for all client inquiries. Outside of work, Matt enjoys staying active, whether it's hiking, running, or cross-countryskiing, in addition to playing in a band.

Wendy Hildebrandt

Investment Advisor Assistant

Supports the team with **administrative tasks, account openings,** and managing **documentation.** Her commitment to delivering exceptional customer service ensures that every client receives the highest level of care. Wendy values community and volunteer work, and in her free time, she enjoys crafting and spending quality time with her family.

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