

Pension Centre of Excellence Brings Together Leaders at Spring Symposium on Retirement Income Security, Welcomes New Members

TORONTO, Thursday, May 21, 2026 — The National Institute on Ageing's Pension Centre of Excellence (PCE) brought together leaders from across the retirement sector this week for its 3rd Symposium, reinforcing its mission to bridge the gap between knowledge and action across Canada's retirement income landscape.

Held in Toronto, the Symposium focused on the future of pension communication in Canada, anchored by the PCE's report, [Understanding and Communicating the Value of Workplace Retirement Plans](#). Through panels, case studies and interactive sessions, participants explored how to translate research insights into action — from reframing the Canadian retirement income system to support greater clarity and long-term thinking, to promoting the intangible benefits of workplace plans, and improving decision-making tools to help Canadians make more informed retirement planning choices.

“Strengthening retirement income security in Canada requires more than good ideas,” said Bonnie-Jeanne Macdonald, Director of Financial Security Research and Co-Lead of the Pension Centre of Excellence of the NIA. “It requires collaboration grounded in evidence and focused on real-world solutions. Through the Pension Centre of Excellence, we are bringing together diverse expertise to turn insight into action and help Canadians achieve greater financial confidence in later life.”

PCE Welcomes New Members

The PCE is pleased to welcome four new member organizations, further strengthening its cross-sector collaboration:

“Retirement is core to BlackRock. As a leading manager of pension assets and target date funds in Canada, we support the retirement outcomes of millions of Canadians. We're proud to join the Pension Centre of Excellence to advance retirement innovation and help more Canadians invest better to live better.” Colleen Davis, Chief Operating Officer of Canada, BlackRock

“Great retirement outcomes are built through thoughtful design and collaboration. By joining the Pension Centre of Excellence with the NIA, CAAT is proud to help bring the right voices together to move that forward and expand access to predictable, lifetime income so more Canadians can retire, and stay retired, with confidence,” said Tania Pironcelli, Vice President of Pension Solutions, CAAT Pension Plan.

“We're pleased to be part of the Pension Centre of Excellence working alongside industry peers to share insights, learn collectively, and collaborate toward a shared goal of strengthening retirement readiness for Canadians,” said Tracey Wong, Vice President, Institutional Sales and Service, Fidelity Canada Institutional

“TTC Pension Plan is excited to join the Pension Centre of Excellence and learn from peers across the sector about how to make the value of the plan more clear, relevant and meaningful for our members,” said Andrea May, Director, Marketing & Communications, TTC Pension Plan.

Reenvisioning Retirement for Canadians

As Canada approaches a “super-aged” milestone, with nearly one in five Canadians ages 65 and older by 2030, the need for coordinated, evidence-informed action on retirement income security has never been more urgent. Through convenings like the Spring Symposium, the PCE will continue to drive forward practical solutions that support financial wellness, more informed decision-making, and long-term well-being.

“The Pension Centre of Excellence reflects the NIA’s commitment to improving the lives of older adults and the systems that support them, through research, meaningful collaboration and a focus on advancing practical solutions,” says Alyssa Brierley, Executive Director of the NIA. “Today’s symposium and the research work of the PCE create a sustained pipeline of evidence and insight to inform better policies and practices and ultimately strengthen financial security for Canadians as they age.”

Hear from Existing Members

“ACPM is pleased to be part of the Pension Centre of Excellence and contribute to this important initiative,” said, CEO of the Association of Canadian Pension Management (ACPM). “Collaboration across the retirement sector is essential to strengthening retirement income security in Canada, and we look forward to contributing to discussions that support better outcomes for Canadians.”

“The Pension Centre of Excellence is fast becoming a leading voice in the drive to improve the Canadian retirement income system. We welcome new member organizations as stakeholders who will amplify the PCE’s practical solutions and tangible innovations.” CWIPP: The Canada-Wide Industrial Pension Plan

“The strength of this Spring’s symposium was not only in the quality of the research, but also the quality of the conversation it sparked. Retirement systems are facing increasingly complex questions, from affordability and sustainability to changing member expectations and technology. Forums like this create space for leaders across the ecosystem to share perspectives, challenge assumptions, and think collectively about how we strengthen retirement outcomes for Canadians.” Max Bazile, Deloitte Canada

“The Pension Centre of Excellence plays a critical role in bridging research and real-world action. By bringing together diverse perspectives, it is helping reshape how we communicate and deliver retirement solutions—enabling us, as a provider, to better support plan sponsors and plan members in making informed decisions and strengthening their long-term financial confidence and empowerment.” Marie-France Amyot, Vice-President, Group Benefits and Retirement Savings, Desjardins Insurance

“Building a strong retirement future for Canadians requires innovation, collaboration and practical solutions. The Pension Centre of Excellence enables industry leaders, policymakers and researchers to work alongside one another towards a shared purpose. As Canada's leading provider of Capital Accumulation Plans, Sun Life is proud to be a part of this movement, helping Canadians build lifetime financial security,” said Joseph De Dominicis, Vice President, Market Development, Group Retirement Services, Sun Life.

“We value the forum that the Pension Centre of Excellence offers to share research and exchange ideas about how the industry can enhance pension coverage and build retirement solutions that are uniquely suited to meet the needs of Canadians. At T. Rowe Price, we are committed to understanding Canadians’ retirement needs and investment preferences, so we can best support them in achieving adequate retirement security.” Jessica Sclafani, CAIA Head of Retirement Strategist Team, T.Rowe Price

About The National Institute on Ageing

Founded in 2016, the National Institute on Ageing (NIA) is celebrating a decade of impact in our mission to improve the lives of older adults and the systems that support them. Over the past 10 years, the NIA has become Canada’s leading voice on ageing policy — convening stakeholders, conducting research, advancing policy solutions and practice innovations, sharing information and shifting attitudes. Our vision remains clear: a Canada where older adults feel valued, included, supported and better prepared to age with confidence.

About the NIA’s Pension Centre of Excellence

The National Institute on Ageing’s Pension Centre of Excellence (PCE) is a non-partisan, research-informed and action-oriented platform focused on strengthening the retirement financial security of Canadians. The PCE brings together diverse stakeholders and experts to generate practical insights and innovative solutions. Through best-in-class research, convening, and knowledge sharing, the PCE provides objective analysis to inform policy, industry practice, and public understanding.

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