



# Gregory Winfield

## Counsel

Toronto

[gwinfiel@mccarthy.ca](mailto:gwinfiel@mccarthy.ca)

t. +1 416-601-7907

## Bar Admission

Ontario 1988

## Law School

Queen's University

## Practices

Pensions, Benefits, & Executive Compensation

## Industries

Pension Funds Group

Gregory Winfield is counsel in our Pensions, Benefits & Executive Compensation Group. Since joining the group in 1990, he has provided strategic legal advice to employers with respect to pension plans, profit sharing plans, registered retirement savings plans, welfare benefits plans, retirement compensation arrangements and other areas of executive compensation.

Gregory has over 30 years' experience in connection with the administration, operation and taxation of pension plans and with respect to legislation governing taxation and administration of plans. In addition, he has broad experience with respect to the treatment of plans on purchase or sale of a business and corporate reorganizations (including CCAA) and provides advice as to entitlement to use of surplus assets.

Gregory has been involved in many of the leading pension and benefits matters of the past 30 years including the first decisions relating to contested partial wind ups of pension plans and the deemed trust provisions of the Pensions Benefits Act (Ontario). He acted as lead pension counsel for Algoma Steel in its pension restructuring under CCAA in 2001 and has participated in a number of other restructurings (most recently Chrysler Canada Inc.) with key benefits issues. He worked on the first Employee Life and Health Trust to be established in Canada. Gregory frequently acts on pension investment matters for the largest pension plans in Canada and has a particular expertise in dealing with public sector pension plans, including structuring of investments and debt offerings.

Gregory was the lead lawyer among the McCarthy team that contributed the Canadian research and analysis in the seminal ESG work "A legal framework for the integration of environmental, social and governance issues into institutional investment" produced for the Asset Management Working Group of the UNEP (United Nations Environmental Program) Finance Initiative, October 2005.

He has written and spoken at numerous industry conferences in virtually all areas of pension law, including obligations of administrators and other fiduciaries, governance, communication and legal liability, mergers and acquisitions, insolvencies, investments, executive pensions and risk management. More recently, he won the 2013 *International Pensions & Employee Benefits Lawyers Association's* Tony Thurnham Award for the article entitled "Canadian Employee Life and Health Trusts" which he co-authored with Mark Firman.

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Prior to joining McCarthy Tétrault, he worked for the Pensions Commission of Ontario ("PCO") (predecessor to the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario ("FSRA") ) in its policy branch and for an international pension consulting firm. Gregory has acted as special advisor to the PCO in respect of pension reform matters.

He currently serves on the FSRA Technical Advisory Committee for Asset Transfers.

Gregory received his BA from the University of Toronto in 1982 and his LLB from Queen's University in 1986.

## Awards & Rankings

### Chambers Global

Leading Lawyer: Pensions & Benefits - Canada

### Chambers Canada

Leading Lawyer: Pensions & Benefits

### The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory

Leading Lawyer: Pensions & Employee Benefits

### Best Lawyers in Canada

Leading lawyer in the area of employee benefits law

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## Recent Experience

- **OMERS Realty Corporation completes C\$400 million private placement offering**  
June 22, 2020
- **Canadian Western Bank acquires iA Investment Counsel Inc.**  
June 01, 2020
- **A consortium agrees to acquire up to a 100 per cent interest in Alberta PowerLine for up to C\$1.7B**  
December 18, 2019
- **SNC-Lavalin completes sale of 10.01% stake in 407 International Inc. for C\$3.25B**  
August 07, 2019

## Recent Insights

- **New Pension Holiday-Makers May Suffer Hangover**  
October 16, 2020
- **Don't Forget About the Upcoming Changes to CPP**  
October 05, 2018

## Events

- **10th Annual Pension & Benefits Seminar: The Accelerated Normal**  
October 22, 2020
- **Annual Pension and Benefits Client Seminar: Cooking with Gas – Tips to Help You with Plan Management**  
January 31, 2020
- **9th Annual Pension & Benefits Seminar: Cooking With Gas – How We Can Help You With Plan Management**  
October 15, 2019