



# 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

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Greg 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.

Greg 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 other benefit 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.

Greg 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), some of the earliest and largest pension restructuring insolvencies, the first Employee Life and Health Trust in Canada among them. 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.

Greg 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. He won the 2013 *International Pensions & Employee Benefits Lawyers Association's* Tony Thurnham Award for the article entitled "Canadian

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Employee Life and Health Trusts" which he co-authored with Mark Firman.

Currently, much of Greg's practice relates to an advisory roles to key private sector pension clients and supporting pension investment matters at public sector pension plans.

Prior to joining McCarthy Tétrault, he worked for the Pension 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. Greg has served in several legal or other advisory volunteer roles at the Ontario pension regulator.

Greg 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

## Recent Experience

- **TransAlta Corporation announces agreement to acquire Heartland Generation for US\$658M**

November 2, 2023

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- **SiteOne Landscape Supply, Inc. acquires Linzel Distributing**

August 12, 2022

- **ACON Investments acquires Raymond O'Neill & Son Fisheries and Suncoast Seafood**

October 14, 2021

- **Aon plc terminates proposed US\$30B acquisition agreement of Willis Towers Watson**

July 26, 2021

## Recent Insights

- **Key Takeaways from the 2021 Pension & Benefits Seminar**

November 26, 2021

## Events

- **13th Annual Pension & Benefits Seminar**

November 29, 2023

- **12th Annual Pension & Benefits Seminar**

November 8, 2022

- **11th Annual Pension & Benefits Seminar - Presumption of Resumption: A Post-Pandemic Future?**

November 23, 2021