



Leave
purchases
for OMERS
members

OMERS

What's new

At OMERS, we are here to support you at every step of your pension journey – throughout your career and into retirement. That's why we're introducing more ways for you to build a better financial future for yourself and loved ones by purchasing a leave.

Starting on January 1, 2026, you will have access to more flexible financial options with the opportunity to purchase all or part of your leave while you are away and for up to two years after your leave ends.

We are also launching a new online process that makes it easier to purchase any type of leave. This means no more paper forms — you will be able to view your options and manage any leave purchase directly through your myOMERS account.

How taking a leave can impact your pension

Over the course of your career, there may be times when you need to take a leave of absence — maybe it's to welcome a new baby, care for a family member or deal with a personal emergency.

When you are on a leave, your contributions through payroll to OMERS stop. Unless you purchase that leave, your future pension will not grow during this period. Purchasing some or all of your leave will help maximize your income in retirement and may also allow you to retire earlier with an unreduced pension.

To see the impact that purchasing a leave could have on your pension, check out the updated [Retirement Planner tool](#) in your myOMERS account next year.

Flexible payment options

OMERS is improving the leave purchase experience for members by introducing:



More choice

You can purchase all or a portion of your leave. You also have the option to start your purchase while you are still on a leave.



More time

You have up to two full calendar years after completing a leave to pay for your leave purchase.



More flexibility

Pay by lump sum, automatic deductions from your bank account or transfers from other savings vehicles such as your RRSP, LIRA or AVC account.



More efficiency

Take advantage of a streamlined online experience in your myOMERS account to stay informed, save time and automate payments.



Stay connected

Before taking a leave, we encourage you to check your contact information with OMERS and update it, if needed.

Having a personal email address on record will ensure that you don't miss any important updates about your leave.

If you don't have a myOMERS account yet, creating one is easy! [Register now](#).

Purchasing a leave: How it works

For OMERS members whose leaves start in 2026

If you've previously purchased a leave, you'll notice some changes. Starting January 1, 2026, OMERS will partner directly with you on your leave purchase journey.

You will hear from us about all information and decisions around your leave purchase.

We are introducing a new online process available through your myOMERS account that provides you with key details about your leave purchase available at-a-glance, including the ability to make financial decisions and set up payments. The leave purchases dashboard in your myOMERS account will be your home base for reviewing and managing your leave purchase..

For OMERS members whose leaves continue from 2025 into 2026

If you are currently on leave or you start a leave before December 31, 2025 and it continues into the new year, you will deal directly with OMERS for most aspects of your leave purchase, though some administrative details will still be handled by your employer.

For all OMERS members: What a leave purchase costs

The cost to purchase a leave is not changing. In general, the cost to purchase a leave is the total of the contributions that would have been made by you and your employer if you were not on a leave.

For statutory leaves such as parental and disability leaves, the cost to purchase is shared with your employer. For all other leaves, the cost to purchase is entirely carried by you. If you choose not to purchase your leave through this process, you may still be able to purchase it later, but that is generally more expensive.

Reminder

OMERS will continue to rely on your employer to provide information about your leave. Your employer will remain your primary point of contact for any non-pension support about your leave, such as parental leave top-ups or other benefits.

Contact us

Have questions or need support? We're here to help. For more information about leave purchases, contact our [Member Experience](#) team from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

- myOMERS: Log in and send us a [secure message](#)
- Phone: 416-369-2444 or 1-800-387-0813

To learn more about how leave purchases work, you can also visit our website at: members.omers.com/purchasing-a-leave



Investing in your future

I want all OMERS members to feel excited about their retirement. My team and I are here to help you prepare for what this chapter can look like — no matter where you are in your career or what type of leaves you may take on the path ahead. We're here to help you achieve more financial security and help make your dreams possible.

– Celine Chiovitti
OMERS Chief Pension Officer

Did you know?

OMERS by the numbers

- From 2014 to 2024, over 220,000 OMERS members have taken more than 860,000 leaves. The top three most common types among members are: parental leaves, disability or illness-related leaves, and other short-term leaves authorized by an employer.
- Approximately 75% of these leaves were not purchased by members over the last decade. We want to change that so less people miss out on pension income later in life.



Leaves in Ontario and Canada

- In Canada, women on average live 4.4 years longer than men (83.9 vs. 79.5), which means more years spent living in retirement – and for every dollar men receive, women only receive 83 cents (Mercer, 2024). Purchasing a leave can increase your retirement income.
- There are over a dozen different types of statutory leaves in Ontario, but OMERS and your employer's benefits may also cover additional authorized leave types based on your role, industry or other circumstances.