

CPBI Ontario Pension Summit - *Preparing for (More) Change*

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Claude Macorin - Macor Capital Management

CPBI held the Annual Pension Summit on May 4th at the Toronto Board of Trade. We had the pleasure of having Keith Ambachtsheer (KPA Advisory), Jacquie McNish (Wall Street Journal), Caroline Helbrunner and Lindsay McLeod (Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP) speak at the session.

Keith Ambachtsheer provided the audience with background on his latest book entitled *The Future of Pension Management*. Keith highlighted the fact that the Pension landscape has changed significantly since his previous book (*Pension Revolution*) was published in 2007.

Keith indicated that simultaneous with DB Plans closing in favor of DC Plans, there is a movement in the industry toward improving DC Plans to make them a better alternative. The focus is on cost reduction and ensuring that retirees understand and appreciate the decumulation phase of their retirement. Keith mentioned that while there has been progress, there is still room for improvement.

Jacquie McNish who was recently awarded the National Business Book award for her latest book *Losing the Signal, the Spectacular Rise and Fall of Blackberry*, was part of an interesting panel discussion with Keith that underlined how important private market competition and controlling costs were in delivering a successful Pension program.

Keith indicated that a number of countries were expanding pension coverage and that the proposed ORPP was part of this global initiative. There was general agreement that the Provincial Government would prefer an expanded CPP in lieu of introducing the new ORPP but the political landscape will make this very difficult to achieve. Keith believes that the private sector should be encouraged to compete with the ORPP by offering a comparable Pension arrangement. This competition will provide greater efficiencies that would otherwise not develop with a monopoly.

Caroline Helbrunner and Lindsay McLeod (Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP) provided a cross-country regulatory round-up of legal developments in the area of pension and benefits. They also provided a summary of the recently released legislation governing the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan. These updates focused on what employers and plan administrators need to know to prepare for the next round of changes in the area of retirement savings.

Attendees were provided with an autographed copy of *The Future of Pension Management*.