
DETAILS

Date:	July 22-23, 2023	Conference:	Advanced Trust Management Standards (ATMS); Session B
Time:	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	Location:	Delta St. John's Hotel & Conference Centre, St. John's, NL
PX:	Joel Swaan		

SUMMARY

I respectfully acknowledge the land on which St. John's is situated is the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. Today, the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) is the unceded home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. As such, I would also like to acknowledge with respect the diverse histories and cultures of the Mi'kmaq, Innu, Inuit, and South Inuit peoples.

Having taken Session 'A' of the Advanced Trust Management Standards certification offered by the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBC) in June of 2022, I was interested and invested in completing the program. ATMS has two streams, for trustees of either pension or health and welfare trusts, but the stream choice only affects the practical assignment on the afternoon of the second day. Nonetheless, I chose the health and welfare stream. The sessions and content are dry, as will be the rest of this report.

Sessions involved funding, investments, and financing of defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans, and of health and welfare plans; governance principles were taught throughout.

Trustees were taught the funding policy cycle of plan design, funding objectives, financial assessments, and plan monitoring and review. Plan design fundamentals included understanding the obligations, impact, and characteristics of the plan. Further education involved understanding the plan life cycle, the trustees' responsibilities towards deficit and surplus funding, and understanding the stability of contribution provisions.

The governance structure of the investment policy cycle includes the concepts of plan design, investment beliefs, asset mix policy, investment manager structure, manager selection, and continuing with monitoring and review.

A trustee's fiduciary duty is to prudently manage plan assets in the best interests of beneficiaries. All the training in Advanced Trust Management Standards takes trustees through the decision-making steps of philosophy of plan design through on-going management.

After completing the full ATMS course, I'm not convinced that I'm a better trustee for the work that I do on the Provincial Executive. The more direct involvement one has with actual investments, including the philosophy behind how we invest and how we choose those assets, the more critical this training is. I'm appreciative of the provincial executive for sending me to this training. I will endeavor to use the decision-making processes that were taught to the betterment of all 16,600 members.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel J. Swaan
Provincial Executive



INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

Founded in 1954 hereby awards

Joel Swaan

Certificate of Achievement in Advanced Trust Management Standards (ATMS)

For having completed a curriculum covering the four key knowledge areas of effective trust management: legal, administration, governance and funding/investment/finance, and passing a comprehensive examination.

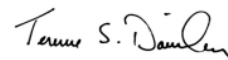
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