

Nova Scotia refines 50% unlocking at age 55

Effective February 17, 2026, individuals with a Schedule 4A Life Income Fund (LIF), will no longer be permitted to transfer their locked-in funds to a Locked-In Retirement Account (LIRA).

Amendments to Pension Benefits Regulations Effective February 17, 2026

The [Pension Benefits Regulations](#) have been amended, effective February 17, 2026, to prevent more than 50% of locked in retirement funds from being withdrawn. Financial institutions raised concerns with the Superintendent of Pensions that the regulations did not go far enough to stop individuals from unlocking more than 50% of their locked-in funds by transferring from a LIF to a LIRA and then back to a LIF, unlocking 50% each time. This is called “churning” and could allow someone to unlock more than 50% of their locked-in retirement funds. Changes made to the Regulations to address this issue can be found at the link below:

Nova Scotia Office of the Registrar of Regulations – List of Regulations by Act (M-Z)

<https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/rxam-z.htm#penben>