

# GH – Valuation & Regulation Canada Exam

Spring 2025

## Important Exam Information:

### [Exam Registration](#)

Candidates may register online or with an application.

### [Order Study Notes](#)

Study notes are part of the required syllabus and are not available electronically but may be purchased through the online store.

### Syllabus Readings

Readings listed in this syllabus may include study notes, online readings and textbooks. Candidates are responsible for all readings in their entirety, including sections such as Appendices, unless it is stated otherwise in the syllabus.

### [Introductory Study Note](#)

The Introductory Study Note has a complete listing of all study notes as well as errata and other important information.

### Case Study

A case study will not be provided for this examination.

### [Past Exams](#)

Past Exams from Fall 2020-present are available on SOA website.

### [Updates](#)

Candidates should be sure to check for updates on the Exam Study page periodically for additional corrections or notices to the current syllabus.

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<b>1. Topic: Reserving</b>
<b>Learning Objectives</b>
The candidate will understand and apply valuation principles for insurance contracts.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
The Candidate will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Describe the types of claim reserves (e.g., due and unpaid, ICOS, IBNR, LAE, PVANYD)</li><li>b) Explain the limitations and biases of the traditional valuation methods</li><li>c) Calculate appropriate claim reserves given data</li><li>d) Describe, calculate and evaluate the impact of environmental factors in reserve calculations (trend, seasonality, claims processing changes, etc.)</li><li>e) Evaluate data resources and appropriateness for calculating reserves</li><li>f) Describe, calculate and evaluate non-claim reserves and explain when each is required</li><li>g) Apply applicable standards of practice related to reserving</li></ul>
<b>Resources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Group Insurance</i>, Skwire, Daniel D., 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2021<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Ch. 39: Claim Reserves for Short-Term Benefits</li><li>○ Ch. 40: Claim Reserves for Long-Term Benefits</li></ul></li><li>• GHVR-103-16: Health Reserves</li><li>• <a href="#">Canadian Institute of Actuaries Standards of Practice - Insurance</a>, Jan 2023, sections 2100, 2200 and 2300</li><li>• <a href="#">CIA Educational Note - Valuation of Group Life and Health Policy Liabilities</a>, Jun 2010, sections 5, 8-10 and Appendices B, C, &amp; D</li></ul>

## 2. Topic: Financial Statements

### Learning Objectives

The candidate will understand how to prepare and be able to interpret insurance company financial statements in accordance with IFRS & IAS.

### Learning Outcomes

The Candidate will be able to:

- a) Interpret insurer financial statements from the viewpoint of various stakeholders
- b) Evaluate key financial performance measures used by life and health insurers for both short and long-term products
- c) Project financial outcomes and recommend strategy to senior management to achieve financial goals
- d) Describe the planning process of a life and health insurance company (strategic, operational, and budgeting)
- e) Compare key differences and similarities in measures by accounting basis
- f) Describe how to compute the taxable income of a life and health insurance company
- g) Explain fair value accounting principles and describe International Accounting Standards (IAS)
- h) Construct basic financial statements and associated actuarial entries for a life and health insurance company

### Resources

- *Group Insurance*, Skwire, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2021
  - Ch. 37: Group Insurance Financial Reporting in Canada
  - Ch. 43: Analysis of Financial and Operational Performance
- GHVR-693-24: OSFI Guidelines for Life Insurance Capital Adequacy Test (LICAT)  
Read introductions to all chapters below:
  - Ch. 1: Overview and General Requirements (All sections) (pp. 5-14)
  - Ch. 2: Available Capital (sections 2.1-2.2) (pp. 15-42)
  - Ch. 6: Insurance Risk: (sections 6.1-6.8, excluding 6.7) (pp. 130-149)
  - Ch. 11: Aggregation and Diversification of Risks (All sections) (pp. 210-217)
- [CIA Educational Note - Financial Condition Testing](#), Jan 2023, pp. 1-45
- [CIA Educational Note - Sources of Earnings Calculations – Group Life and Health](#), Oct 2010
- [Comparison of IFRS 17 to Current CIA Standards of Practice](#), Jun 2022 (excluding sections 3.3, 7.2.1, 7.2.2, 7.2.3, 7.2.5 & 8.1.1)
- [CIA Educational Note – IFRS 17 Coverage Units for Life and Health Insurance Contracts](#), Dec 2022 (excluding sections 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.2, 3.4)

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- [CIA Explanatory Report - IFRS 17 Expenses](#), Jun 2022
- [IFRS 17 Insurance Contract Examples](#)

<b>3. Topic: Regulation &amp; Taxation</b>
<b>Learning Objectives</b>
The candidate will understand how to evaluate the impact of regulation and taxation on insurance companies and plan sponsors in Canada.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
The Candidate will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Describe the regulatory and policy making process in Canada</li><li>b) Describe the major applicable laws and regulations and evaluate their impact</li><li>c) Understand the impact of the taxation of both insurance companies and the products they provide</li></ul>
<b>Resources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Canadian Insurance Taxation</i>, Swales, et. al., 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2015<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Ch. 4: Income for Tax Purposes – General Rules (pp. 37-38 [excluding “Imputed Interest Benefit on Real Property”] &amp; 43-47)</li><li>○ Ch. 9: Investment Income Tax (pp. 135-142)</li></ul></li><li>• GHVR-621-19: Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association: Guideline G3, Group Life and Health Insurance</li><li>• GHVR-631-13: Canadian Life &amp; Health Insurance Association: The Protection of Personal Information Under Group Benefit Plans</li><li>• GHVR-637-13: Ch. 16 and 17 of Canadian Life &amp; Health Insurance Law, Jones, H. E.</li><li>• GHVR-644-22: TACCESS: An Advisor’s Guide to Understanding How Taxes Impact Group Insurance Benefits in Canada</li><li>• GHVR-647-15: Protecting Canadians’ Long Term Disability Benefits</li><li>• GHVR-648-15: Canadian Life and Health Insurance Industry Agreement to Protect Canadians’ Drug Coverage</li><li>• GHVR-653-16: Telus Health Note: How Much Does that Drug Cost?</li><li>• GHVR-659-16: Ontario 2014 Budget Will Forbid Employers from Self-Insuring Long Term Disability Plan to Employees</li><li>• GHVR-660-16: Self-Funded Disability Plans: Time Running Out on Federally Regulated Employers</li><li>• GHVR-661-16: Employee Life and Health Trusts &amp; Health and Welfare Trusts</li><li>• GHVR-662-16: Firefighter Who Died of Cancer was Killed in the Line of Duty, Court Says</li><li>• GHVR-663-16: West Nile Victim Wins \$130,000 Insurance Payout</li><li>• GHVR-671-16: CHLIA Guideline G4 – Coordination of Benefits</li><li>• GHVR-672-16: CHLIA Guideline G17 – Coordination of Benefits for Out-of-Country/Out-of-Province/Territory Medical Expenses</li></ul>

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- GHVR-685-17: *Campagne D'Assurances Standard Life V. Tremblay* 2010—QCCA 933: A Hefty Price to Pay for Unwarranted Surveillance
- GHVR-700-19: Ch. 12 (sections 12.1-12.4) and 13 of *Canadian Handbook of Flexible Benefits*, McKay, Robert J., 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition
- GHVR-705-24: Assuris for Group Insurance in Canada
- GHVR-706-20: PMPRB-Framework Modernization
- GHVR-709-21: *Brooks V. Canada Safeway Ltd.*, pp. 1219-1227 (up to section II)
- GHVR-710-21: Termination of Benefits Coverage at Age 65 Declared Unconstitutional
- GHVR-721-25: The Quebec Act Respecting Prescription Drug Insurance (ARPD)
- GHVR-722-25: Navigating Group Insurance Laws in Quebec

<b>4. Topic: Retiree Benefits</b>
<b>Learning Objectives</b>
The candidate will understand and evaluate post-retirement and post-employment benefits in Canada.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
The Candidate will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Describe why employers offer post-retirement and post-employment benefits</li><li>b) Determine appropriate baseline assumptions for benefits and population</li><li>c) Determine employer liabilities, service cost and expense for post-retirement and post-employment benefits for financial reporting purposes under IFRS and understand differences compared to US GAAP</li><li>d) Describe funding alternatives for post-retirement and post-employment benefits</li><li>e) Describe current issues faced by governments, employers and employees related to post-retirement and post-employment benefits</li><li>f) Apply actuarial standards of practice to post-retirement and post-employment benefit plans</li></ul>
<b>Resources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Morneau Shepell Handbook of Canadian Pension &amp; Benefit Plans</i>, 17<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2020<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Ch. 24: Post-retirement and Post-employment Benefits</li></ul></li><li>• GHVR-632-13: IAS19</li><li>• GHVR-649-15: Comparison of IAS 19, Rev. 2011 with FASB ASC 715: Summary of Provisions Affecting Accounting for Postretirement Benefits</li><li>• GHVR-650-24: IAS 19: Supplementary Study Note for Canadian Health Actuaries</li><li>• GHVR-667-16: Hicks Morley Pension and Benefits–2013 Case Law Update, pp. 62-70</li><li>• GHVR-668-16: The New Reality of Retiree Benefits</li><li>• GHVR-669-16: The End of Retiree Benefits?</li><li>• <a href="#">CIA Educational Note – Health Care Trend Rate</a>, May 2012, pp. 4-17 only</li><li>• <a href="#">CIA Educational Note – Setting the Accounting Discount Rate Assumption for Pension and Post-Employment Benefit Plans</a></li><li>• <a href="#">CIA Standards of Practice - Practice-Specific Standards for Post- Employment Benefit Plans</a>, Feb 2024</li></ul>

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**5. Topic: Government Programs**

**Learning Objectives**

The candidate will understand how to describe and evaluate government programs providing health and disability benefits in Canada.

**Learning Outcomes**

The Candidate will be able to:

- a) Describe eligibility requirements for social programs in Canada and the benefits provided
- b) Describe how private group insurance plans work within the framework of social programs in Canada

**Resources**

- *Morneau Shepell Handbook of Canadian Pension Benefit Plans*, 17<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2020
  - Ch. 2: Government Pension Programs (pp. 44-64, Canada & Quebec Pension Plans)
  - Ch. 17: Provincial Hospital and Medical Insurance Plans
  - Ch. 18: Workers' Compensation
  - Ch. 19: Employment Insurance
- GHVR-651-16: The High-Stakes Battle of Medications, Insurers and The Government
- GHVR-694-19: Guide to Canada Benefits Legislation, 2018, sections 7.1, 7.2, 7.2.1, 7.2.5 & 7.2.6
- GHVR-695-19: A Joint Statement from the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance and the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association
- GHVR-696-19: Ensuring the Accessibility, Affordability and Sustainability of Prescription Drugs in Canada (Introduction and Exec Summary only)
- GHVR-702-20: OHIP+ Pharmacy Redesign Update - FAQs For Patients
- GHVR-715-F23: Ontario's New Drug Plan Will Require a Swap of Brand-Name Biologic Medications for Cheaper Versions
- GHVR-716-F23: Legislative Changes to EI Sickness Benefits
- GHVR-718-F23: An Update on Canada's National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases
- GHVR-719-24: Canada's New Dental Care Plan Could Impact Nearly 9 Million Canadians—Are You One of Them?
- GHVR-720-24: Seniors Spend Thousands on Dental Work, Suffer in Pain or Wind Up in ERs. Will Canada's Plan Help?
- [Sustainability of the Canadian Health Care System and Impact of the 2014 Revision to the Canada Health Transfer](#), SOA/CIA, Sep 2013, Executive Summary and Ch. 11 only
- [Biosimilars in Canada: Building Momentum in the Wake of Recent Switching Policies](#), Nov 2021
- [Pharmacare: Is There a Pill for That?](#), CIA, Feb 2021