

# Do You Have a Financial Compass?



**Larry J. Gallant**  
FINANCIAL VIEW  
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The compass. Where would we be without it? Most likely lost. The compass has been used for more than two thousand years to help people determine where they are, plot out travel routes and ensure they stay on course. So why would we not use a compass, metaphorically speaking, to ensure we recognize where we stand financially, how we set our financial goals and ensure we stay on target to achieve financial independence?

If you think about it, the similarities between directional compasses and financial compasses are numerous. Before taking off on a journey, it's always best to have a map as a reference. It's much the same with financial planning. Your Financial Advisor should sit down with you to determine what your financial goals are and help you develop a plan to achieve those goals. Mapping out a plan is essential to understand where you are coming from and where you want to be.

Like reestablishing location and direction on a map, regular reviews of your investments with a Financial Advisor will keep you headed in the right direction and keep your retirement plans on track. There may be hills and valleys along the way, much like stock market ups and downs, but a skilled Financial Advisor can help you navigate through the pitfalls.

So what if you set out on your journey without a compass? Well, you can always use the stars to plot your course. Not nearly as accurate and only available half the time. Without a guide on the journey, there's an increased chance that you might find yourself miles off course with no time to recover. Now, if this situation occurred with your retirement plan it would be devastating!

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Having a retirement road map, a financial compass to keep you on course, and a Financial Advisor there to guide you along the way are all necessary pieces of a financial plan. Without all three ingredients, you drastically reduce your chances to retire when you want and how you want. After all, it's not just getting from point A to point B that matters, it's the road you take to get there!

To discuss this article or to arrange a free no obligation review of your portfolio, please contact me at [larry.gallant@queensbury.com](mailto:larry.gallant@queensbury.com), visit my website at [www.gallantfinancial.ca](http://www.gallantfinancial.ca) or call 905-892-2100.

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