

Retirement Planning...

A Year Long Commitment



Larry J. Gallant
FINANCIAL VIEW

The RRSP contribution deadline for tax year 2010 has come and gone. Many Canadians are now thinking about the next looming deadline; completing tax returns. But is your retirement saving plan out of site, out of mind? It shouldn't be. Your best chance to have a financially sound retirement requires a financial plan that continues to be monitored and measured against your financial goals all year long.

Do you have a financial plan for retirement? Having a financial plan is so much more than just making sure you add to an RRSP each year. Here are a few things to consider...

Do you know what year you plan to retire? What age will you be? Do you know how much income you will receive from your company or government pension? Will your money outlive you or will you outlive your money?

With people living longer and longer these days, you should plan to have your retirement savings last. True freedom in retirement is the ability to enjoy life without having to worry about the restrictions that might occur due to a lack of money.

What if you are already in retirement? If you are about to draw on your RRSP account to supplement your pension, are you allowing it to still work for you from an investment prospective? Unless you have more than a million dollars in your RRSP, investing in GIC's at 2.45% for five years will negatively impact the ability of your retirement funds to outlive you.

There are many investment options available to help individuals reduce the risk of depleting retirement income. High quality bonds can provide a steady monthly income. Preferred shares can do the same. To help your investments grow over time, stocks, exchange traded funds and mutual funds should be added to enhance your portfolio. Of course, all of these investment products should reflect your investment goals and risk tolerance.

“Will your money outlive you or will you outlive your money?”

Just because the RRSP contribution deadline for 2010 has passed doesn't mean your retirement plan should be put on the back burner. Contacting a qualified financial advisor to manage your retirement funds is the first step.

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

Larry J. Gallant is a independent investment advisor with Queensbury Securities Inc., a member of the Canadian Investment Protection Fund and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada.

The comments and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily the opinions of Queensbury Securities Inc. Securities mentioned may not suit all types of investors. Before making any investment decision, contact your investment advisor to discuss your investment needs.