

Canadian Entertainment Industry Retirement Plan



Helping all members retire with dignity.
Fall / Winter Newsletter 2008

Time in the market is far more important than timing the market

In low interest rate environments, there is a tendency for less experienced or less educated investors to purchase high yielding or higher returning assets without truly understanding the inherent nature and/or risks of what they are buying.

Last year's market turbulence was accelerated as groups of investors chased yield. After years of consistent market gains, volatility has suddenly returned due to the credit crisis of 2007. It is expected that the fallout of the credit crisis in the U.S. will continue for some time, as will the unraveling of that portion of the real estate market supported by the sub prime loans. Investors who had consistently

chased yield will be sorely disappointed in this type of market as the true risk of their investments becomes clear.

Historically from 1970 to 2006 the Canadian equity market grew 10.5% on an annualized basis. This attractive return was achieved despite 9 years in which a loss was incurred (the largest annual loss exceeding 20%). Many investors' compromised their returns during this time period by being over-reactive with their investment portfolios. Today's headlines are creating volatility in stock and bond prices that are beyond what is reasonable given the reality of the assets backing those particular securi-

ties. The average investor does not have the experience or education to adhere to a disciplined buy and hold strategy. These investors often sell their funds when they experience large declines and generally miss the chance to reinvest at the opportune times, when the fund price is lower. **Over the past 35 years eight of the ten largest gains by the TSX came in the six months following the markets ten worst days.**

Many market experts have known for years that *Time in the market is far more important than timing the market*. By maintaining a long term focus and holding money in funds for a meaningful period of time, investors have improved chances of achieving their long term financial goals.

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Great-West Life exposure to financial services sector in the United States and it's impact on Investments

Great-West Life's formal Investment Manager Review Process requires them to meet with all of the fund managers on a semi-annual basis to ensure their continued adherence to their investment policies and processes.

In addition to this, and due to recent market conditions, Great-West Life recently surveyed all the managers to determine their exposure (as of August 31st) to the financial services sector in the United States. Great-West Life has reported that exposure to this sector is quite limited in their portfolio funds. The asset classes that have the greatest exposure are; US Equities, Global Equities, Balanced Funds and Fixed Income. For more information please call the **Great-West Life Client Service Centre at 1-800-724-3402** and ask to speak with one of their non-commissioned investment advisors.

Get informed!

Diversification is a good way to reduce risk. The inclusion of several different types of investments in your Portfolio Funds reduces exposures to the risks associated with a single investment.



Assess your risk tolerance level. Take the Investment Personality Questionnaire, available online at www.grsaccess.com or ask your Administrator for a copy.

Familiarize yourself with the investment options available through the Plan, also available online.

*Call the **Great-West Life Client Service Centre at 1-800-724-3402** and ask to speak with one of their non-commissioned investment advisors.*

Take the opportunity to seek investment advice from an appropriately qualified advisor of your choice outside of the Plan.

Use the Smart tools that came with your Enrolment Kit and are available online to help plan for your retirement. If you didn't receive the Smart tools CD with your Kit, contact your Administrator.

And finally, try to stay focused on long-term goals, not on the short term bumps and market volatility along the way.

Do the recent changes to the Plan affect you?

As announced at the beginning of the year Administrators are no longer tracking your RRSP contribution room. If you have ascertained that you have reached your allowable RRSP deduction limit you should notify your Administrator or payroll company as the case may be. You can find your RRSP deduction limit on the Notice of Assessment you receive in the mail after you file your taxes, or on line at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/myaccount. Over-paying into your RRSP may incur a penalty tax. Contact the Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-989-8281 (English) or 1-800-959-7383 (French) if you have any questions or concerns.

Effective September 1, 2008, with the Directors Guild of Canada coming on board, the I.A.T.S.E. Canadian Retirement Plan became the Canadian Entertainment Industry Retirement Plan. If you are a DGC member as well as a member of an I.A.T.S.E. Local participating in the Plan you need only one account and your payroll contributions will flow to your account whether you work under an IA or DGC contract. Contact your Administrator about designating a Home Local or Guild as the case may be.

Also new September 1st was the addition of the Cadence and Ethics Funds in the Registered Plan and the fund selection in the Non-Registered Plan was expanded to match the selection in the Registered Plan. Details on the new funds can be found at www.grsaccess.com.

Important RRSP contribution deadlines

The Great-West Life offices will be closed on:

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2008 – at noon

Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008

Friday, Dec. 26, 2008

Thursday, Jan. 1, 2009

Friday, Jan. 2, 2009 – Montreal office only

Family day, Monday, Feb. 16, 2009 – except Montreal office

Members will receive RRSP receipts at their home address for contributions submitted to Great-West in a postmarked envelope as noted below:

RRSP receipt period	Contributions received	Postmarked on or before*	RRSP receipts will be mailed on or before
March 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2008	by Jan. 22, 2009	Dec. 31, 2008	Feb. 5, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to March 2, 2009	up to March 6, 2009	March 2, 2009	March 16, 2009
	from March 9, 2009 to March 24, 2009	March 2, 2009	March 31, 2009

Postmarks are monitored for three weeks following the end of each tax receipt period, which is why there are two receipt mailings during the January to March 2009 period.

*For contributions sent by courier, the courier company's mailing date (date sent) will be used instead of the postmarked date. (This includes contributions sent by overnight courier.)

Have you enrolled?

Most of this information won't be of much use to you if you haven't enrolled in the Plan yet. You may even have payroll contributions just sitting somewhere not doing you any good at all. You won't get a tax receipt until that money goes into a registered account.

Maybe you've worked in another jurisdiction and their Administrator hasn't been able to track you down and remit your contributions to your account - check your pay slips against an *Activity report* on your account.

If you also have a non-registered account you may want to check it to see if there is a balance that could be transferred to your registered account so that you get the tax benefit.

Contact info for Administrators is available at www.ceirp.ca.

