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New Web Site Operational - On-line Source for Information



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Responding to the latest trend in website design, our **updated** website www.financialdecisions.ca is easy to navigate and quickly obtain information of importance. Shown above is our “masthead” which is displayed on every page with our logo, contact information and office photo. Underneath links to other pages, including **daily market information** from BNN and reports from the **Croft Financial Group**. Other links take you to Newsletters and Videos. Check out the FAQ’s and Endorsements link and the page for clients to access their own **personal National Bank investment information** which is also updated daily. We welcome your comments and suggestions as websites are always a “work in progress”.

Change for the better - Some of your Questions answered

We believe in change for the better and the reason that over the past two years we have instituted **several improvements** that we sincerely believe **benefit the services** we are able to provide you.

Many of you have had questions with respect to **aspects of the transition** and we take this newsletter opportunity to answer some of those most frequently asked in order to make you more **fully aware** of how we work on your behalf.

First of all we have **no plans to retire**. We remain your **primary contact** for all financial planning matters at all stages in your life up to and including retirement and estate planning and intend to do so into the foreseeable future.

While we, with your approval, have arranged that your investments are managed through the very capable **Croft Financial Group** we continue to broker for the best available GIC rates and Insurance products.

During these very difficult times the professional money managers at the Croft Group have proven to **outperform** for the benefit of all of us. While you are welcome to contact these individuals at any time with respect to your investments we suggest you **call us first** with any questions and we can arrange a meeting.

As well we continue to provide you with **complete financial statements** on a regular basis as well as the investment information available from Croft and National Bank.

If you have any questions with respect to the changes that have taken place or any personal **financial lifestyle** matter, please e-mail or call as we are always happy to discuss your needs and help in any way.

See reverse for more news

Best Laid Plans Considerations

News these days, or maybe even historically, is negative. We **are bombarded** with all that is wrong with the world at times leaving us feeling like a leaf blowing helpless in the wind. However, there are many things we do have control over and those are the positives to focus on.

You don't leave on a road trip without checking Google Maps or plotting out the route prior to leaving, even if you are using your trusty GPS as **you want to be prepared** to have the best experience possible.

Just like the road trip, you can have plans for the journeys in life to have better outcomes. **We often encourage the use of short, mid and long-term goals** that connect time frames to the wish list you are striving for. The real benefit of setting such markers is first that you put the plan into action and then proceed to enjoy your life.

Perhaps, the more valuable benefit is that when life takes its twists and turns or presents detours, roadblocks or the like, which are beyond your control, **you can review your plan** and adjust it to stay on track for the path to success.

Inflation, interest rates, market activity, changing times are all examples of the financial negatives that can be **turned around** when you do the planning within your control to reorganize and find the sunrise that the news never talks about.

If it is time to dust off your prosperity plan, or make a new one, approach it with **vigor and excitement** to ensure you don't let any negative noise become a bump in the road for you. There is always a way to make your goals a reality.

In the meantime, take the time to **enjoy** the good summer weather – treat yourself to fun in the sun.

Did You Know?

Virtually anyone can call themselves a financial planner, however recent survey results show the value of advice from those with recognized professional designations such as **Certified and Registered Financial Planner**, especially those who develop **comprehensive financial plans** for their clients.

Canadians who work with an accredited financial planner are **much more likely** to report their financial affairs are on track and closer to achieving their life goals than those dealing with individuals with no qualifications or doing it themselves. They also report **higher levels** of emotional, financial and overall contentment over those who have not received holistic ongoing financial planning.

Those individuals who engage in comprehensive financial planning feel **more confident** in reaching the discretionary goals they consider as important including annual vacations, money for “splurges” and enough money to live the life they want.

Now more than ever with inflation effecting your budgeting and lifestyle it is important to make the **best financial decisions possible**.

Canada Disability Benefit Passed!

After over a year, the Canada Disability Benefit Act passed at the end of June 2023. It is to **assist working-age Canadians with disabilities** to reduce poverty from the financial and social challenges they face.

All the fine details are not known yet as to what the criteria is to qualify for this new benefit, how earning some income effects it and how or if it will impact the current provincial assistance families with disabled members receive.

The government will be working with both the provinces and the insurance industry **to protect against anyone having their existing benefits clawed back** as it is not considered either employment income or replacement income. In 2020, when the Liberal government introduced this Canada Disability Benefit, they stated it would be created similar to the Guaranteed Income Supplement so it would likely have an income threshold for eligibility.

The intention is that the benefit would be a regular monthly payment for those who qualify between the **ages of 18 and 64**.

As more is learned about this disability benefit over the coming year, we will keep you posted.

Interest Rates and GICs

With inflation still with us, interest rates continue to rise, meaning that fixed income investments such as GIC's provide **higher returns** than in previous years. Rates are better for short term (one to two years) as the long term outlook is uncertain. As a broker, **we can secure higher rates** than local banks for any funds you may wish to secure in this manner. Call us anytime for up-to-date rates as they can change on a daily basis.