CIRO · OCRI
Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization
Organisme canadien de réglementation des investissements

A Guide to Retirement Planning and Living

Managing your finances to maximize your retirement years is the goal of retirement planning. Your retirement strategy should strike a balance between your financial realities, requirements, and wants.

Why is a retirement plan important?

A retirement plan provides a roadmap for your financial future, allowing you to make informed decisions, enjoy your retirement years, and face uncertainties with confidence. It’s a proactive approach to securing your well-being and the legacy you leave behind.

You have the freedom to begin whenever you want, but it works best if you make it a part of your financial planning as soon as you can. This is the best way to ensure a retirement that is both safe and secure, while also being enjoyable.

Plan for longevity

The average lifespan is a starting point rather than a destination. It may be necessary to budget for the possibility of living a somewhat longer life in retirement, especially if you are in good health and don't smoke.

How can you protect against longevity risk?

The possibility of living so long after retirement that you go through your savings too soon.

Following these steps can help shape your retirement path, adding security to your retirement.

Delay benefits now for safety later. CPP benefits go up each month of delay after the age of 65. Also, OAS benefits can be deferred for up to five years after the age of 65. This ensures a higher income and protects against inflation since they are adjusted annually (CPP) or quarterly (OAS) to account for changes in the cost of living.

Find a balance between guaranteed income sources and a diversified investment portfolio. Annuities are a type of guaranteed income. They can comprise part of a well-balanced portfolio. They can also be purchased in multiple "tranches."

Establish an emergency fund.
Regardless of your age, an emergency fund would serve as a reliable financial safety net, helping you with unexpected expenses and limiting the need to withdraw more than planned from say, registered savings accounts. For example, withdrawing more than initially expected from a RRIF will cause a bigger tax bill in the year of the emergency.

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Learn how to stay on track with your retirement plan by knowing how much you'll need to save and understanding the income needed for monthly expenses and for how long.

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3 **Saving for Retirement**
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5 **Scams, Frauds and Financial Abuse**
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1 How much do I need for Retirement?

How much you need depends on who you ask. Some say that you need $1 million to retire comfortably. Others use the 80% rule, which is you need enough to live on 80% of your income at retirement. What we do know is most retirees aren't saving anywhere near enough to live comfortably.

Another rule of thumb used often for retirement spending is the 4% rule. It's quite simple: You add up all of your investments and withdraw 4% of that total during your first year of retirement. In the following years, you adjust the dollar amount you withdraw to account for inflation.

Determining the amount you'll need for retirement is an important part of your retirement strategy and will rely on several factors.

Your retirement age

This is the year you plan to stop working full-time for income

Over the last few years, the life expectancy for men and women in Canada has increased. Notably, the life expectancy of women, which has the highest value is 84.67 years and for men 80.62. In Canada, most people retire between 60 and 70 years. That said, you can now expect to live a longer retirement period. This means your retirement period could last 20 to 25+ years. The idea that you can get away with planning for a shorter retirement window is no longer accurate.

The earlier you begin investing, the more time you have and with the help of compound interest, investing early means you need to save less. For more information on how compound interest works, check out The Office of the Investor's "Compound Interest: A Powerful Force in Finance".

Your retirement goal

Setting a retirement goal means determining what you want for retirement and depends on your own personal circumstances and vision for retirement. What are your ambitions for this phase of life? This will help you determine how much you need to save based on your desired lifestyle during retirement. For example, your retirement goal might be:

- **Traveling/Living**
- **Taking up more/expensive hobbies (i.e., golf)**
- **Moving abroad to another country**
- **Entertainment (dining out, theatre, karaoke)**

More and more Canadian retirees are choosing not to downsize or move into retirement communities. Instead, they like the idea of staying in their own homes and living an active lifestyle. As a result, they will need a higher retirement income to maintain that active way of living.

The place you choose to live after retirement can affect your financial needs. Taxes, public pensions, and healthcare may operate differently in other countries compared to Canada. Learn more about retiring abroad in the **Government of Canada's guide.**

Your retirement spending

Now more than ever, rising inflation and cost of living will have a big impact on your retirement. You'll need more retirement funds to keep paying for everyday expenses. Here are some examples of new expenses that you perhaps weren't expecting:

- Healthcare costs
- Long-term care costs
- Unexpected housing costs (such as maintenance or repairs)
- Adult children who need financial help

A number of various everyday expenses will also carry over, such as food, clothing, utilities, vehicle and entertainment (since you'll have more free time on your hands!). **More information provided in the "Planning for Unexpected Expenses" chapter**. Some common expenses you may no longer have in your retirement include:

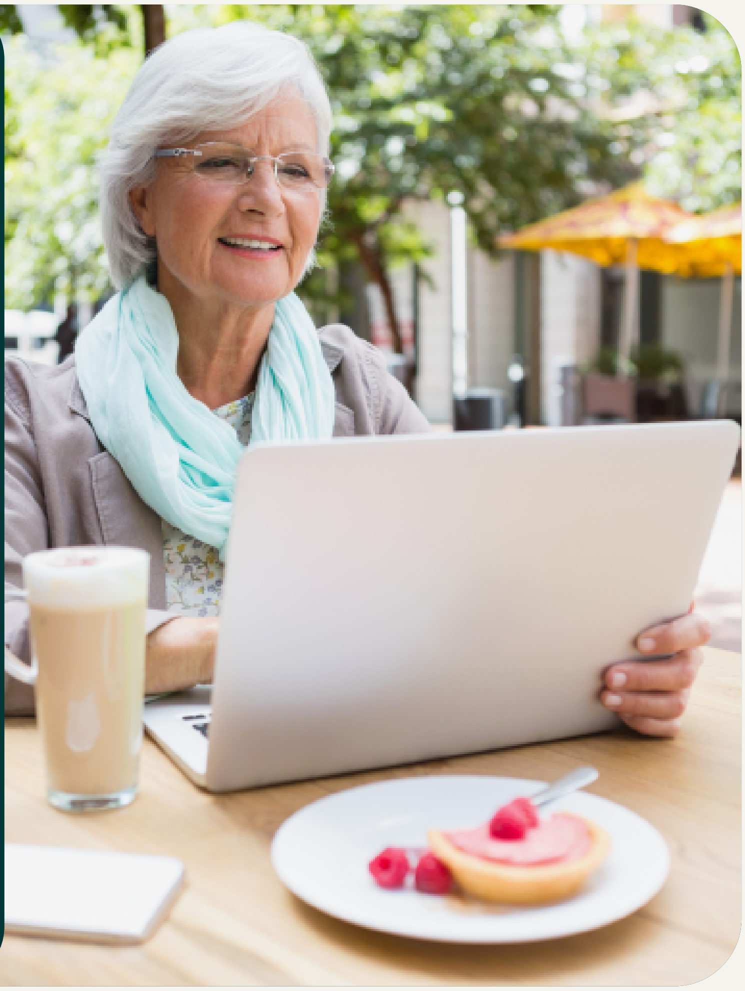
- **Mortgage**
- **Life insurance premiums**
- **Commuting expenses**
- **Saving for retirement**
- **Childcare/children's expenses**

Tracking your income and expenses and sticking to a plan will help you build financial stability today and for your retirement. Check out the **FCAC's Budget Planner tool** and get started.

Your federal government benefits

When you retire, you will probably receive some retirement benefits from the federal government. These benefits can help decrease the amount of money you need to save for your retirement. The federal government provides retirement benefits that depend on your income and/or the contributions you make during your working years and your personal circumstances.

Ages to keep in mind



Age 60	The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) may begin.
Age 65	Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) may begin.
Age 71	You must convert an RRSP into an RRIF.

***More detail provided in the "Sources of Retirement Income" chapter.**

Your pension income

You might also receive income from a pension plan provided by your employer depending on how long you were in the plan and how the funds were invested. This income can come in the form of a defined benefit pension plan (DBPP), a defined contribution pension plan (DCPP), or other type of pension or savings plan.

For more info about pension and savings plans, please refer to the **“Sources of Retirement Income” chapter.**

2 Sources of Retirement Income

Thankfully, you have support when it comes to sources of income for your retirement. The Canadian government provides federal public pension plans for retirees in Canada, which can help supplement your income depending on your work history and financial needs.

Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan (CPP/QPP)

CPP/QPP is a government- sponsored pension plan that gives monthly payments to retirees. The amount you receive depends on how much you paid into the plan while you were working. You can start receiving CPP payments as early as age 60 but the earlier you start collecting payouts, the lower your monthly payments will be. The highest monthly amount you can receive happens if you wait until age 70, after which there is no benefit to waiting.

In addition, if you work when receiving your CPP retirement pension while under the age of 70 and decide to keep making contributions you may also qualify for the CPP Post-retirement benefit. These contributions go toward post-retirement benefits, which increase your retirement income.

Learn more about CPP.

Old Age Security (OAS) pension

Similar to CPP, OAS is a government-sponsored pension paid to Canadians over the age of 65. The OAS payouts do not depend on contributions. In order to receive this benefit, you have to be a Canadian citizen or legal resident and have lived in Canada for more than 10 years after age 18.

You can choose to defer your OAS benefits until after 65, which will increase your monthly payments.

It is also important to know that If your taxable income reaches a certain level (the OAS clawback threshold), you will have to pay back some or all of your OAS income. This is officially called the OAS recovery tax, but most people call it the Old Age Security clawback.

Learn more about OAS.

Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)

The GIS is a monthly amount available to Canadians with low incomes who are aged 65 or older. The supplement benefit is provided in addition to the OAS and is not taxable. Your income (and your spouse's if you have one) determines how much you get. To be eligible, your annual income must be less than the maximum threshold.

Learn more about the GIS.

Public pensions are not meant to cover all your financial needs in retirement, just a portion.

You may also have an employer-sponsored pension plan which is a registered plan that gives you a source of income during retirement. In these plans, your employer or you and your employer regularly contribute money, which are then invested. When you retire, you'll receive an income from the plan.

Defined Contribution Pension Plan (DCPP)

With a DCPP the amount of money put into the plan is specified but the amount of money you receive at retirement is not.

Typically, you contribute a percentage from your pay into the plan and your employer also must contribute to the plan and may match some of your contribution. Some plans allow you to choose how and where your money is invested and the amount available when you retire depends on both how much you've put in and the investment returns your plan has made on that money. The amount of income you get at retirement is not guaranteed.

Defined Benefit Pension Plan (DBPP)

A DBPP specifies the amount of pension you'll receive when retired. Usually, both you and your employer put money into this plan.

With a DBPP, you do not control how or where the money in the plan is invested. Your employer invests the money and is responsible for making sure there's enough money to pay retirement pensions in the future. If not, the employer must cover the difference.

For most DBPPs, you'll need to stay with a company for a minimum number of years to qualify.

Pooled Registered Pension Plan (PRPP)

A PRPP is typically offered by financial institutions on behalf of employers and self- employed people. It works similar to a DCPP where the amount of income you'll have in retirement isn't defined. In Quebec, the PRPP is called a voluntary retirement savings plan (VRSP).

This plan is designed for people who are self-employed and might not have access to a workplace pension plan. One advantage of a PRPP is the plan can move with you if you change jobs or careers. However, PRPPs are not available in all provinces.

Find out more about **Employer Pension Plans**

Group Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP)

A group RRSP is an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan, like an individual RRSP, but managed on a group basis by the employer. Contributions are deducted from your pay, on a pre-tax basis. Employee contributions are usually matched by the employer. All RRSP contributions (both yours and your employers) are tax-deductible to you and all investment earnings are tax-sheltered while in this account.

Investment decisions are made by the employee and although the options are similar to those available for an individual RRSP, you'll likely have fewer investment choices than you would with an individual RRSP.

If you leave your employer, your money can be:

- **Transferred to your own individual RRSP (or RRIF if you want immediate income and are eligible to transfer to a RRIF)**
- **Used to buy an annuity, or**
- **Taken in cash and taxed as income in the year received**

3 Saving for Retirement

During their retirement years, a large number of Canadians rely on a variety of additional income streams, including investments and personal savings. Saving for retirement requires investing money, but where you put that money is important.

Kindly take note. This is not retirement advice; its information provided for educational use. To obtain customized information for your circumstances, please speak with a registered financial advisor.

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Types of Accounts

Below you will find a description of a variety of accounts that can be used to save for retirement. Keep in mind that each of these accounts is like a vehicle which can hold a variety of different types of investments such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds etc.

Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP)

The RRSP is a tax-sheltered savings account that holds certain investments and is designed to help you save for retirement. You may open and start contributing to an RRSP as long as you're under 69 years old and you're making money.

One benefit of an RRSP is that all contributions and earnings in the account are tax-free. You won't be required to pay taxes on your earnings if the investments under your RRSP perform well. Also, the amount of any RRSP contributions you make is subtracted from your taxable income, which can lower your annual tax burden.

RRSPs are not without limitations, though. Your yearly contributions cannot exceed the lower of:

- **18% of your earned income in the previous year, or**
- **The maximum contribution amount for the tax year**

If you are unable to make a contribution in a given year, you can carry over your RRSP contribution room and use it in the future.

RRSP withdrawals are considered taxable income when you retire. As such, they are more geared towards individuals with moderate to high income since their income and tax rate will generally be lower in their retirement years.

You must close your RRSP when you turn 71. **Learn more about options when you turn 71**

Remember when you retire, you'll usually move your RRSPs into a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) which gives you income in your retirement. This must be done by age 71. Learn about RRIF's

Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA)

TFSAs are another tax-sheltered account which allows you to save for your retirement goal. All Canadians have the same annual TFSA contribution limit, regardless of income level and TFSAs can hold most kinds of investments. Many contribute to a TFSA in addition to an RRSP.

Unlike RRSPs, TFSA contributions are not tax deductible for income tax purposes and any amount contributed as well as any income earned in the account is generally tax-free when withdrawn, including in retirement.

Canadians with lower income earnings might find TFSAs more attractive for retirement savings, especially if you receive money from government programs like the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). This is because your benefits stay the same regardless of how much money you take out of your TFSA.

Locked-In Retirement Account (LIRA)

If you have a pension plan through your employer and you leave your job, you'll have to decide what to do with your pension. One of your options is to transfer it into a LIRA. As the name suggests, the money is locked in until you retire. You can't add or withdraw money. Although this means you do not have access to the money for expenses like education or housing, you know you have money there when you're ready to use it for retirement income. Also, the the funds can grow tax-free in this account until you turn 71. At that time, you need to convert the LIRA to a Life Income Fund (LIF) or an annuity.

Life Income Fund (LIF)

Similar to a RRIF, LIFs are registered, tax-sheltered accounts. The amounts you can withdraw are capped each year and are based on your age and how much is in the account. If when you reach retirement, you have a pension you would like to receive income from, you can convert it into a LIF. Or, if you were part of a workplace pension plan, and left before retirement, your savings could also be placed in a Locked-in retirement account (LIRA). It's a good idea to work with a registered financial advisor to choose your investments, which will continue to grow tax-sheltered.

Unlike a registered retirement savings plan this money can only be used for retirement income.

Learn more about Registered Savings Plans

Good idea to create an Investment Policy Statement (IPS) with an advisor or on your own, outlining the rules you want your advisor to follow for you portfolio to avoid making emotional decisions in bad times.

Non-Registered Accounts

A non-registered account is a flexible savings option that helps you save beyond the limits of a Registered Pension Plan or Group Registered Retirement Savings Plan and lets you keep investing for your future if you've maxed out contributions in other registered savings plans.

You are able to use your savings at any time, even before retirement and for any reason. Although non-registered accounts offer no tax benefits, they usually allow for more flexibility as they have no contribution ceiling or tax limitations.

For most Canadian taxpayers, it may be better to invest in a non-registered account if:

- **You will be in a higher tax bracket after retirement, and**
- **You invest all your money in investments which produce capital gains or eligible Canadian dividends, and**
- **You do not sell any investments until retirement, because the sale would generate taxable capital gains**

Income Annuities

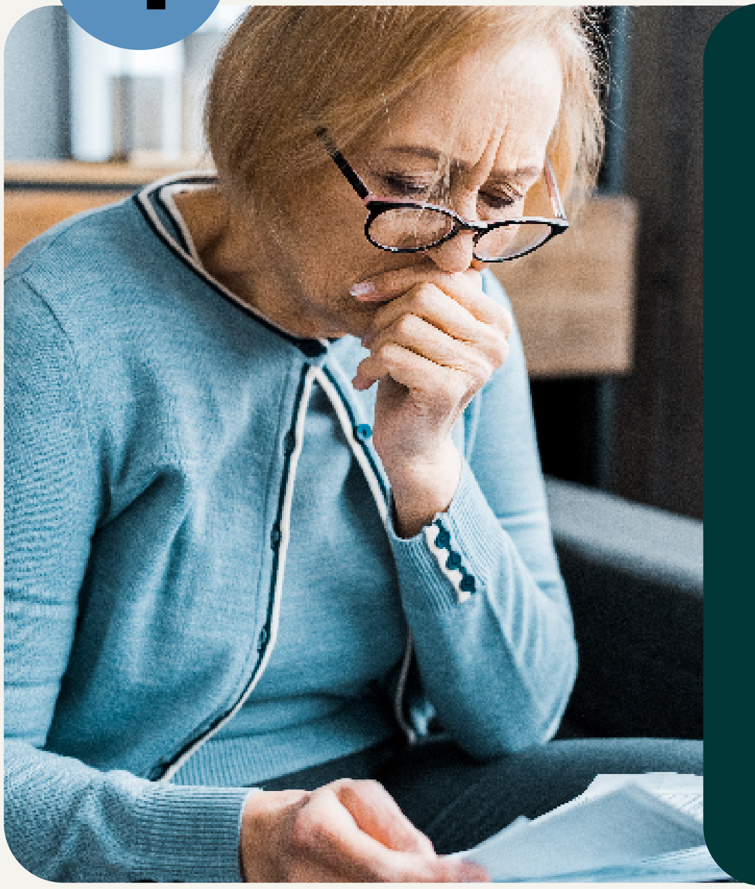
An annuity is a financial product that gives you regular income during your retirement and is sold by providers such as a life insurance company. You invest a sum of money, with a guarantee you'll get a set income over a specific period of time, or for the rest of your life.

Annuities allow you to change your savings into a set monthly income. Regardless of how the markets may change, your income will stay the same. You may choose to start receiving your payments right away or at a later date if you bought a deferred annuity. There are many kinds of annuities;

- **A term-certain annuity: your monthly payments are set for a number of years (fixed-term). If you die before the end of the term, your beneficiary or estate will continue to receive regular payments**
- **A variable annuity: you receive both a fixed income as well as a variable income. The fixed income is usually lower than what you would earn with a non-variable annuity**
- **A life annuity: you get monthly payments for as long as you live. With a life annuity, money left over when you die will not continue to go to your estate or beneficiary**

It's important to understand each type of annuity and their options, benefits and risks. Learn more about Annuities

4 Unexpected Expenses



Planning for the future would be simple if you could know today that you would lose your job in the year 2040 or that you would be diagnosed with cancer in 2046. The problem is that we don't have the foggiest idea what will happen to us later on.

Changing jobs and health issues are only some examples of unexpected events that can have a big hit on your financial well-being. Let’s look at some unforeseen expenses that can happen in your life and have an impact on your retirement savings.

Hidden Housing Costs

Mortgages are the largest debt owned by Canadians but paying them off before retirement is not possible for everyone. In fact, about 17% of Canadian seniors aged 65 or older have a mortgage and home repairs are retirees’ single most common financial shock. It's important to have a plan set up for covering these unforeseen housing costs. One helpful idea is to have your home professionally inspected to identify any issues with your roof, plumbing, electrical framework, or other major parts of your home.

A good rule of thumb is to budget 1% of your home’s total value for annual repairs and maintenance.

Let’s not forget in-home care costs. Private home care costs for the elderly in Ontario vary, but on average, it can range from $20 to $35 per hour. The cost of 24/7 in-home care in Canada can range from $10,000 to $20,000 per month, depending on the level of care required and the specific services provided. For example, the average cost of a Personal Support Worker is $25 to $35 per hour, while a Nurse may cost $50 to $70 per hour, and certain therapy services can cost upwards of $100 per hour.

Healthcare Costs

Although Canada has a strong universal healthcare system, not all medical costs are paid for. Every expense mounts up while you're living on a limited income in retirement, so the last thing you want is to be caught off guard by unexpected medical bills. If you rely solely on Canadian Medicare and your territory's plan, these are some of the out-of-pocket expenses you may have to pay:

- **Dentist visits and all associated care**
- **Prescription drugs**
- **Optometry services, including exams, glasses, and contacts**
- **Hearing care, including hearing aids**
- **Ambulance transportation services if not deemed medically necessary**
- **Physical therapy**
- **Assistive devices such as a cane or wheelchair**
- **Home and car modifications if you have a disability**
- **Private or semi-private hospital rooms**
- **Nursing homes or other residential care facilities**
- **Home care services**

How may these unexpected expenses be avoided? The best course of action is to look into insurance options and get a private insurance plan that will cover any gaps in your government insurance. If you don’t have life insurance, disability insurance or critical illness insurance, work with an advisor to determine what insurance you should have. If you use your spouse’s health and dental benefits, check your need for individual health and dental insurance.

Average Cost of Long-Term Care Homes

There are many kinds of senior living communities. The cost of living in an old age home in Ontario varies depending on factors such as location, services, and level of care provided. On average, it can range from $2,000 to $6,000 per month.

Ontario provides many options for seniors' living arrangements, which means you will need to do a little research to decide which option is best for your needs. To help you collect information and make better decisions visit your provincial government's website in your home province.

Unexpected and Premature Death

Nobody can ever fully prepare for the tragic experience of losing a spouse. But failing to make financial plans might put you in jeopardy. The good news is that you may lower your future risk and make sure you have enough coverage.

If you don't have life insurance, disability insurance or critical illness insurance, work with an advisor to determine what insurance you should have.

Make sure you both have up-to-date wills and powers of attorney. Know the financial picture for both partners, including investments, debt, insurance and workplace benefits, and whether you can keep any workplace coverage if your spouse died. Ensure your estate plan is up to date to help ensure a smooth transition upon your or your loved one's passing.

BE READY FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Have a will and living trust. A valid, up-to-date will helps make sure your estate is allocated the way you would want it. A current will can lessen the legal and administrative worry your family may face when dealing with your affairs. If you die without a valid will, a court will select a person to manage your estate and allocate the assets using a formula set out in provincial estate and family laws. A living trust can be used to manage and distribute assets during your lifetime and can help you avoid the probate process for those assets held in the trust. Having both a living trust and a will can help ensure that your retirement plan is complete and there are detailed instructions for your assets.

Find someone you can trust to assist with handling your financial and personal matters, such as a close friend or relative. Appointing a Power of Attorney (POA) is the most common way of doing this. The word “attorney” is not to be confused with your lawyer; it is just the legal name used to describe your decision-maker. A POA can continue to give authority even if you become incapable (enduring power of attorney); or can be in effect only when you are incapable. Spend some time outlining your plans and wishes to loved ones and trusted contacts. Make sure everyone is aware of your decisions and that these communications are documented in the event that you become incapable of handling matters on your own, so that everyone will be in agreement. Be clear about who will be making decisions when you can’t.

Put together a package with important personal and financial documents that your appointed power of attorney or trusted contact can easily refer to when needed. Store this package in a safe place like a home safe or safety deposit box but be sure your power of attorney has access. Documents to include: Financial Assets, Estate Documents, Day-to-day payments and debt, Sources of Income, Valuables, Digital Assets etc.

Remember to revisit your package every so often to be sure the information is accurate and up to date.

5 Scams, Fraud and Financial Abuse

Scams and fraud are the number one crime against older Canadians. As a senior or an older investor, you are particularly vulnerable to scam artists for a few reasons

- You are often home during the day to answer the door or phone;
- You can be more trusting and may not have family or friends close by to ask for a second opinion;
- They know you have savings and that you are concerned about paying for retirement;
- Diminished capacity, confusion or simply a lack of understanding

Today, retirees face a unique burden as many are still financially responsible for dependent children. This has many retirees worried about not having enough money to last them through retirement. Scam artists prey on that fear by promising high-return, low-risk investments. Scam artists don't just target people who have a lot of money, they also steal a small amount from many people. Either way, you could lose some or all of your money. With little time to recover from the losses, many victims find their retirement plans shattered.

One scam specifically, which is on the rise in Canada is the 'Grandparent Scam'. This is where a senior receives a call or text messages saying a loved one is in desperate need of cash. They pretend to be a police officer, lawyer or even a younger family member.

Typically, the scammer tells you they need money quick "as it's an emergency" to pay for medical bills, travel out of a foreign country or bail. The "grandchild" begs you to not tell other relatives because they are embarrassed or scared. Wanting to help, you send the scammer money.

These scammers are very good at making you believe that they really are your "grandchild". They give you specific details, such as family names and school details (which they most likely sourced through social media), while other times they rely on you to share that sensitive information.

Tips to help protect yourself from being a target of the grandparent scam

Resist the temptation to take quick action no matter how urgent the story is.

Ask hard-to-answer questions.

Does the caller know the name of your dog? How about his/her mom's birthday? Be careful if the person avoids the questions or changes the subject. DO NOT share personal information over the phone. If they ask you a question like, "Do you know who this is?" say no and have them tell you.

After you hang up, verify the story.

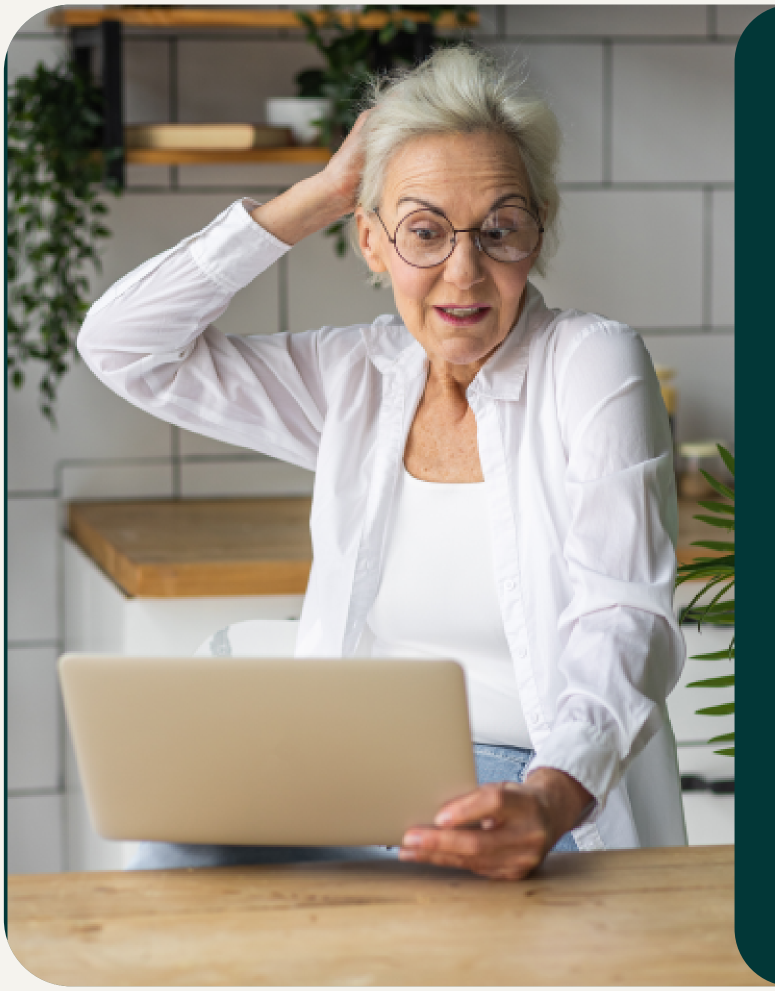
Contact a friend, another family member or your grandchild to check the situation (use a known telephone number, not the one provided by the caller). Does it make sense? Is your grandchild actually in the hospital/out of country/in jail? Never send money unless you're 100% sure who you are speaking to.

Know which of your family members are sharing information online.

You may not have control over their social media accounts, but familiarize yourself with what they are sharing online, so you're aware of what information may be available publicly.

Share information you have learned about this scam.

The more people that know about this scam, the fewer people will become victims. Share details about this scam with your friends and family members, especially ones that are grandparents.



If you've been a victim of this scam, report it to your local police and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

CIRO's Office of the Investor website provides information about fraud and scams:

- Avoiding Fraud and Protecting Your Investments
- How to Protect Yourself Against Fraud and Scams
- What to do if You're a Victim of Fraud

What is elder financial abuse?

When someone uses an elder's money or belongings for their own personal use—someone who is 60 years of age or older—it is considered elder financial abuse. Billions are lost by victims annually and because abusers are usually people who have a close connection to you (your spouse, son or daughter, other relative, friend, neighbour, or caregiver) it can be harder to identify than physical abuse and neglect.

Some forms of financial abuse are clearly fraud or theft. For example, if someone cashes your pension check and pockets all or part of the money without your consent, they are stealing. If they abuse a power of attorney to withdraw money from your bank or investment account for themselves, they are stealing. It can sometimes be difficult to spot because the abuse can take many forms and may manifest as a pattern of events over time rather than a single event.

Other examples of financial abuse include tricking, forcing or pressuring you into:

- **Lending or donating away money, property or belongings**
- **Selling your house or moving**
- **Making or changing your will or power of attorney**
- **Signing legal or financial documents that you don't understand**
- **Buying things you don't want or need**

Sadly, elderly people are easy victims for financial abuse making this a common occurrence. In many cases, the abused elderly suffer from mental health issues like dementia or Alzheimer's. The abuser can take advantage of such health problems to take control of their money and use them for their own gain. However, even healthy elderly people who are mentally sound can be targets for financial abuse - again, often by those closest to them.

Consider naming a Trusted Contact Person (TCP)

When naming a TCP, you are giving written consent for this person to be contacted to help your financial advisor make decisions if they believe that you're being financially abused or showing signs of diminished mental capacity. Naming a TCP can give you peace of mind knowing that your financial advisor can contact someone you trust to help them protect your account. A TCP is not allowed to make transactions on your account, or decisions on your behalf, and will not be given access to your detailed account information.

Consider choosing someone who:

- **Will protect your interests**
- **Will be comfortable talking to your financial advisor**
- **Knows you well enough to notice changes in your personal situation**
- **Is not involved in your finances and is not your power of attorney**

Be sure to let your TCP know that you have appointed them as your Trusted Contact Person. If your situation changes, call your financial advisor at any time to add or update your Trusted Contact Person.

For more information read The Office of the Investors “Why You Should Consider Appointing a Trusted Contact Person”

Where to go for help?

If you think you are experiencing financial abuse, ask for help. If you don't have a family member or close friend who can help you, there are community resources you can use to stop the abuse. Ask your bank, your local seniors' centre, or even your doctor where you can go for advice and help. Or contact your local police.

The abuser may try to make you think that you are the one that is causing the problem, but this is not true.

Tips to stay safe

- **Protect yourself–keep your financial and personal information in a safe place**
- **Have a power of attorney prepared-choose someone you trust to look after you, so that even if you are ill and unable to look after yourself, your finances will be protected from others who might try to take advantage of you**
- **Keep a record of money you give away- note whether it is a loan or a gift**
- **Get your own legal advice before signing documents - for major decisions involving your home or other property**
- **Be very cautious if you open a joint bank account – the other person can take away all the money without asking**

How to identify elder financial abuse

Retirement

Elderly victims are hesitant to report abuse for fear of losing their independence if their only caregiver is found guilty of abuse and they're forced into a care facility. Here are some red flags to watch out for:

- Sudden changes in their bank accounts, such as adding new names onto accounts and cards
- Finding unpaid bills, letters from collection agencies or past due notices despite having adequate financial resources
- Relatives, who in the past had not been involved, showing up and claiming their rights to an elder's property or possessions
- The sudden transfer or gift of money or belongings to someone outside the family
- A change in spending habits, like no longer wanting to go shopping or eat out
- They seem worried or stressed out about money

Concluding Comments

Planning appropriately for retirement is important in securing your financial future and enjoying a comfortable lifestyle in your golden years. Consulting with a registered financial advisor can provide invaluable guidance tailored to your unique circumstances, helping you navigate through the many investment strategies, tax implications, and unforeseen challenges. By taking proactive steps and seeking professional advice, you can begin on your retirement journey with confidence and peace of mind!