

Are You Betting On Your Retirement?

Written by Jeff Willis, Tax Savings and Wealth Management Specialist, Investment Planning Counsel

Happy New Year!!!

As always this is the time when people make resolutions for the coming year... is planning for their retirement one of them?

Of course, if you are like most people you already are investing for your future. Most people consider buying their RRSP and saving for a "rainy day" a good retirement plan... is it?

Here are some statistics of those that have not taken any steps towards planning for their financial future....

Statistics provided from Gallup Canada for Canadian Association of Financial Planners:

- 67% of Canadians report **not** having a written financial plan prepared by a professional financial planner.
- 51.3% of Canadians said they will make a contribution to their RRSP if and only if they have left over funds.
- 70% of Canadians said that they contribute much less to their RRSP than their allowable limit.

Statistics from Canadian Council on Social Development:

- In 2002 Canadians borrowed an equivalent of 98.4% of their disposable income on mortgages, cars, household goods. In 1984 it was 56%.

Lottery Statistics from Stats Canada

- In Ontario, the average household spends \$266 per year on lottery tickets.
- The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation reported \$2.11 billion in lottery ticket sales for the year ending in 2002.
- In 2001 Canadians spent \$11.3 billion on Casinos, Lotteries, and Video Lottery Terminals.

Statistics from Stats Canada

- By 2030, there will be only two workers per retired person (compared to four today) to pay the rapidly rising costs.
- By 2025, Canadians will be celebrating the biggest retirement bash in history. Seven million Canadians - almost one-quarter of the population - will be sporting seniors' discount cards. It's all in honor of aging baby boomers.

To learn some key tips to this year's RRSP contribution, beginning-of-the-year tax strategies or paying down debt with tax savings contact Jeff Willis at (905) 878-9355 or send an email to jeff@jeffwillis.ca.

For a complimentary copy of Jeff's report entitled "10 of The Most Common Tax and Retirement Planning Mistakes Investors Make", visit www.jeffsavesyoutax.com and click on free reports or simply request one by calling the office.