Welcome to Spring! We hope that you either enjoyed the extremely cold winter or were able to escape to a warmer climate.

In this newsletter, we wanted to address a few questions that we have received from clients that we feel are important in planning for retirement or the risk of added expenses due to an unexpected health diagnosis. And as always, we regularly perform due diligence procedures to ensure our clients' portfolios are well-balanced and equipped to weather the current and future market environment.

Protect yourself from the high cost of health care – Critical Illness Insurance

Getting sick isn't something any of us like to think about. But it happens. If it does, thanks to improvements in healthy living and medical science, there is a good chance you'll recover and get on with your life.

But getting better costs money. Treating and coping with illness can mean significant and often unexpected costs. I'm sure you've read in the papers how some medications can cost thousands of dollars a month! And are not covered by provincial health plans.

Critical illness insurance is designed to help you with the unexpected. It provides a tax-free lump sum cash benefit if you're diagnosed with one of the covered conditions and you survive a short waiting period (i.e. 30 days).

By far the most common conditions are for a diagnosis of cancer, heart attack or stroke. I'm sure you know of someone very close to you who was diagnosed with one of those illnesses. Imagine how much easier their life, and how much less stress their family would have endured, had money not been a problem.

Critical illness coverage can give you the financial control to decide on the best medical care for you. The money is yours to use any way you want. For example, you can:

- Find the best health care available – anywhere in the world
- Hire a nurse or caregiver to help you at home
- Make mortgage payments
- Replace lost income
- Fulfill your bucket list dream

Critical illness insurance can give you the financial freedom to focus on what really matters … getting better.

A question regarding the Canada Pension Plan

Q: How much Canada Pension Plan (CPP) I can expect at retirement?

For 2015, the maximum CPP retirement benefit for someone age 65 is $1,065 per month, while the average CPP retirement benefit is nearly half that amount. So, how does one plan to make the most of their CPP retirement benefit?

Eligibility to receive the maximum CPP benefit is based on meeting two criteria:

Timing of Contributions:
The first consideration is that you must contribute to CPP for at least 85% of the time that you are eligible to contribute. Essentially, you are eligible to contribute to CPP from the age of 18 to 65, which is 47 years. 85% of 47 years is 40 years. If you did not contribute into CPP for at least 39 years between the ages of 18 to 65, then you won't receive the maximum pension payment.

Amount of Contributions:
Every year you work and contribute to CPP between the age of 18 and 65 adds to your benefit. To qualify for the maximum, you must not only contribute to CPP for 40 years but you must also contribute 'enough' in each of those years. CPP uses something called the Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE) to determine whether you contributed enough. Below are the YMPE figures for the current and past 6 years:

2015 – $53,600

2014 – $52,500

2013 – $51,100

2012 – $50,100

2011 – $48,300

2010 – $47,200

Basically if your income is less than $53,600 in 2015, you will not have contributed enough to CPP to qualify for the maximum.

The easiest way to figure out your CPP eligibility is to request your CPP statement of Contributions from Service Canada. This document lists all the years you were eligible to contribute from age 18 to 65. It will show you how much you contributed in each of those years. If you contributed the maximum, it will have the letter 'M' assigned for that year. All you have to do is add up all the Ms to see if you are eligible for the maximum. If you have 39 Ms you'll get the maximum. If you have 20 Ms you will get approximately half the maximum (you might get some partial credits for part years if you were temporarily out of the work force, i.e. a stay at home mom).

For clients still working and those that are approaching retirement, we recommend you request your CPP Statement of Contributions and forward a copy to us. This would include both the "summary" page as well as the "table" detailing past annual contributions. It is not only good practice to ensure the figures and information are accurate, but also to determine if there are ways we can assist in helping you receive the maximum CPP eligible to you.

For incorporated business owners, we will work in conjunction with your accountant to ensure you are earning enough income to meet the YMPE. Additional income may be withdrawn in the form of tax-efficient dividends, for example.

CPP remains a core pillar to many Canadian's retirement income strategy, and thus a little planning and understanding can go a long way in helping secure your financial future.

Due Diligence and Portfolio Manager Interviews

As part of our ongoing due diligence, to ensure our clients' portfolios are well-positioned for the current and future market environment, we regularly meet with portfolio managers to dig deeper.

Here are some of our recent meetings:

David Kempthorne, PhD – Research Fellow at Centre for International Governance (CIGI), specializing in global economics. David was a guest on Your Money Matters (January 14th) and we discussed the impact of a falling oil price and its implications for the Canadian economy: housing market, stock market, interest rates, and the Canadian dollar.

Mason Granger – Lead-Portfolio Manager for Sentry Energy and Income Fund. Mason was a guest on Your Money Matters (February 4th) where he evaluated the risks and opportunities in the energy sector.

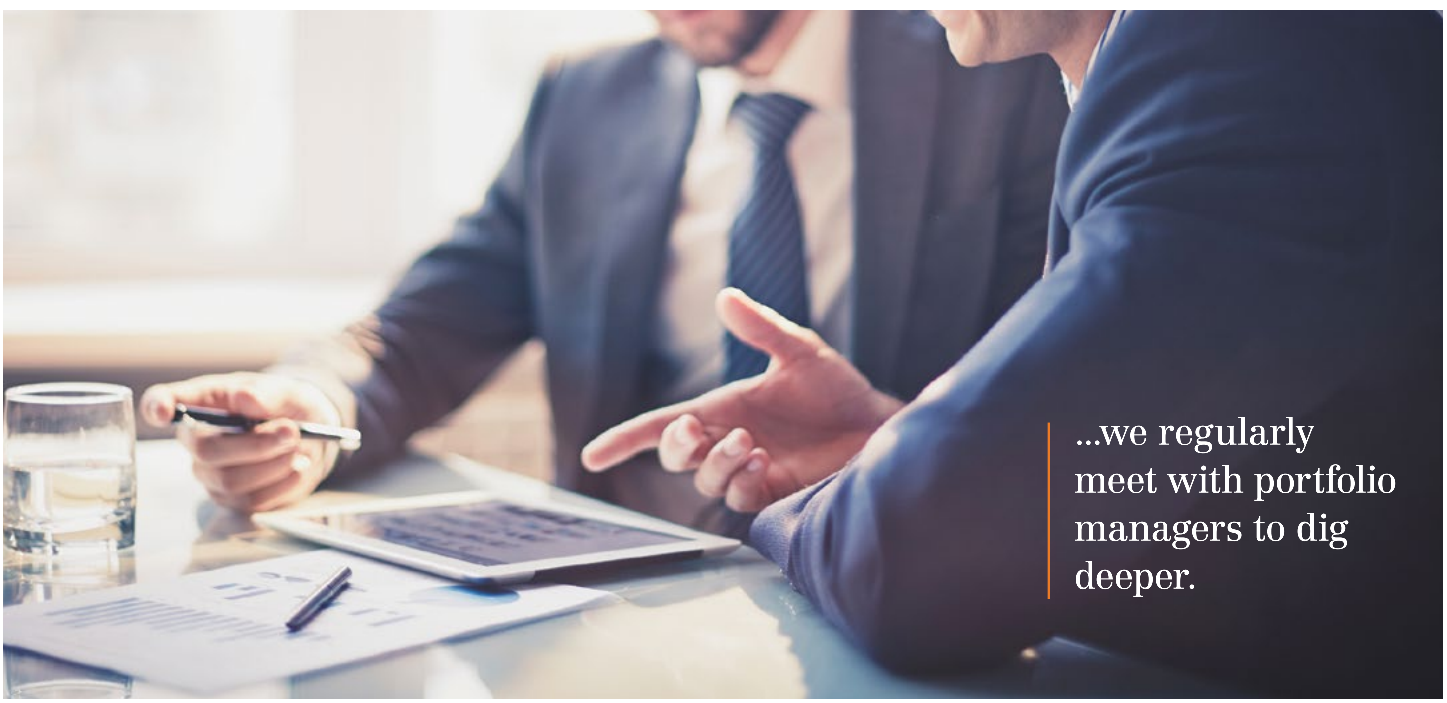
As always, our shows are archived and available for playback. Visit our podcast page via our website: www.LMwealth.com/radio

Myles Zyblock – Chief Investment Strategist at Dynamic Funds (January 15th). Myles discussed the importance of rules-based investing, and strategies to employ to avoid common pitfalls in investing (namely, eliminating emotional bias).

Canaccord's Outlook 2015 Presentation – January 21st at the Tannery in Kitchener. This event was widely attended, and we hosted some of Canaccord's leading market strategists giving us their perspective on the market.

Greg Dean – Portfolio Manager with CI Cambridge funds. We met with Greg in our office February 11th to get an update on the Cambridge team's disciplined approach on where they are finding good value in a market that has experienced a tremendous run.

Dennis Mitchell – Chief Investment Officer at Sentry Investments and Portfolio Manager for Sentry Global Growth and Income Fund. Dennis was in our office February 11th to give us an update specifically on opportunities they see in the global investment landscape.



Tax Filing

As April 30th tax filing deadline is approaching, we remind you that T3s are often the last tax-slips to be issued, because the government allows a March 31st deadline in sending these to clients. For clients who own mutual funds in non-registered accounts, and where a distribution was paid in 2014, mutual fund companies will be sending you a T3 directly.

If you are unsure if you have all your tax slips, or if you have any questions, please reach out to us. We encourage you to let your accountant know that they may contact us for information as it relates to completing your tax return. We are here to help.

> We are constantly learning and endeavour to bring new knowledge to our business processes so we can advise and serve you better.

LYSNES MAGREEHAN
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

John Lysnes, BA (Econ)
Investment Advisor
T: 519.885.8050
john.lysnes@canaccord.com

Mike Magreehan, BBA (Hon), CFP
Investment Advisor
T: 519.885.8051
mike.magreehan@canaccord.com

Chantelle Jack
Licenced Assistant
T: 519.885.8052
chantelle.jack@canaccord.com

lmwealth.com

CANACCORD Genuity
Wealth Management