

The Credit Union

For All Government Employees

Ontario Civil Service Credit Union Ltd.

mycreditunion.ca



The Current shopping cart

See how The Credit Union compares!

Easy-Going RRSPs
RRSP terms minimum \$20,000

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| The Credit Union 2.25% | ROYAL 1.30% | TD 1.30% |
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Posted rates January 21, 2004. Subject to change.

Complimentary Financial Planning!

Gets You Closer To Your Goals!

Don't know what to do with your contribution this year?

PARK IT - and call for an appointment with one of our financial advisors. With expert advice, you can set objectives, explore your options and diversify your portfolio. We'll help create a plan that works for you. Talk to us today!

Easy-Going RRSPs **The RRSP Deadline is Monday March 1st!**

The Credit Union has everything you need for this year's RRSP investment decisions.

Not only have we made it easy for you to contribute, we have all the options and assistance available for you to customize your portfolio.

Just use our convenient 2-Minute Application found in your monthly statement, in-branch or online. Then fax or mail it back - and receive telephone confirmation upon receipt.

The Credit Union offers simple RRSP solutions with added advantages:

- **Higher term deposit rates**
 - our posted rates are often higher than most financial institutions
- **Full range of options**
 - including term deposits and mutual funds
- **Complimentary Financial Planning**
 - from one of our Financial Planners

At PRIME and in TIME!

Make the most of your 2003 RRSP contribution!

Fill out our quick and easy 2-Minute RRSP Loan Application and you'll enjoy fast approval and a great low rate with The Credit Union!



CU TIP

Setting New Limits!

Did you know contribution limits have gone from a maximum of \$13,500 to \$14,500 in 2003, and will reach a new maximum in 2004 of \$15,500?

To maximize your yearly contribution, why not set up a convenient, monthly payroll deduction plan to ensure you're taking full advantage of your investment potential?

Contact Member Assistance to learn more!

Longtime Member Has Big Plans For The Future

Last year, Grace Gayle was planning big things in addition to her wedding to a wonderful man. She also took time to look ahead and invest in her sons' post-secondary education. And with Sue Wyseman's help she reviewed her retirement plans.

Explains Grace, "I've been a member since 1975 and I remember when the branch was located in Queen's Park. It was a little room with a desk and a door."

The Credit Union has come a long way since then with full service branches offering a wide range of products including complimentary Financial Planning, an extra benefit which Grace takes full advantage of.

"I met Sue Wyseman through the investment process. She developed a step-by-step plan for my retirement. She explains everything to me but I make the decisions."

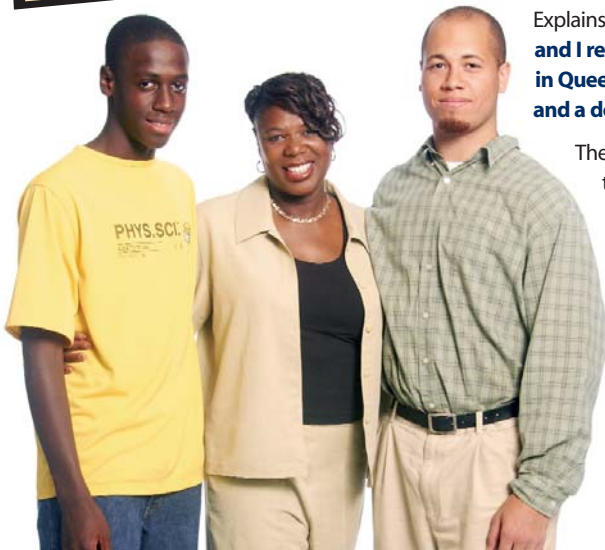
The Value of An Education

While Grace is setting aside savings for her own future, her sons' education is also a top priority.

"I want my kids to put education first and know the value of money. My eldest son has a soccer scholarship but it's important that he gets a degree at the same time. I've set up an RESP for my other son, so he'll have the funds he needs when he's ready to go to university."

With her investment plans in place, two handsome sons and a new husband to enjoy life with, Grace Gayle is looking forward to what the future has in store.

"I have a big life," she says with a laugh, "The service is phenomenal at The Credit Union - they put people first. The borrowing rates are so great - I've shopped around at the banks and they don't compare."





Plan Ahead

Defining your investment goals.

With a new year upon us, many people have resolved to get their finances in order. To start the process of assessing your investment goals, there are a few questions you should ask yourself.

Do I have a plan in place?

A recent pole conducted by Ipsos-Reid Canada found that 49% of Canadians intend to make an RRSP contribution for the 2003 tax year. What draws most of us to RRSPs is the tax savings. Without a plan of action, we tend to make a contribution at the last minute and put the money in a low-interest bearing vehicle, like Term Deposits or GICs. It's better, however, to determine your asset mix and develop a plan of action that will work for you.

What is my asset mix?

Asset mix is determined by several factors including age, risk-tolerance, and your financial goals. As financial advisors, we can help you assess what your portfolio should consist of. Over time your risk tolerance will change, and it is likely that as you age, your need for more fixed income

Sue Wyseman and Jan Jamieson are available to provide complimentary financial planning services to all members. Sue can be reached at wyseman@mycreditunion.ca and Jan at jamieson@mycreditunion.ca or through member assistance at 416-314-6772 or toll free at 1-888-516-6664.

products will become greater. A concrete financial plan that addresses your asset mix will prevent you from becoming vulnerable during a down period.

“ A CONCRETE FINANCIAL PLAN THAT ADDRESSES YOUR ASSET MIX WILL PREVENT YOU FROM BECOMING VULNERABLE DURING A DOWN PERIOD. ”

When can I start?

NOW is a great time to start your retirement plan. Just arrange an appointment with Sue or Jan. If you currently have a portfolio, then we can look at the holdings. Maybe it's time to get rid of those underperforming funds, or even switch some of that low-interest GIC money to Mutual Funds. One thing to remember – an RRSP should be a long-term investment. With so many products out there, the task of investing can be a little daunting. Just remember to ask questions. After all, that's what we're here for.



Successful Tax Planning with GO Figure

Are you paying too much?

Through The Credit Union website, members can access **GO Figure**, a complimentary Online Resource Centre that makes Tax Planning easy. The Tax Planning tool provides you with essential information and can help you implement strategies to reduce your tax burden; including tax deferrals, income splitting and tax credits. You can even email questions to Member Assistance, directly from the **GO Figure** site.

Try it today!

Visit mycreditunion.ca, go to "planning tools", and click on **GO Figure**. Then click on the Tax Planning tab to learn more about your options.



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* Auto insurance not available in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or British Columbia due to government-run plans.

THE OPS SPIRIT FILE



Encouraging and Recognizing OPS People Who Participate in Volunteer Activities

OPS Spirit/Habitat Ottawa Build Phase One – Raising Funds and Recruiting Volunteers

It's time to tell you about the OPS Spirit/Habitat Ottawa Build, a partnership between OPS Spirit and Habitat for Humanity. The first phase – a six-week, OPS-wide campaign running from February 16 to March 26, 2004 – will raise funds and recruit volunteers who will actually help build a Habitat for Humanity home in Ottawa during the summer of 2004. The goal is to raise a total of \$60,000 and sign up as many volunteers as we can. The Campaign has been endorsed by the Deputy Ministers' Council.

For more information or to get involved, please visit the OPS Spirit website at <http://intra.opsspirit.gov.on.ca> or contact **Kate Joakim, Spirit Team Lead, 416-326-7244.**

We'll provide an update on the second phase of the project (the actual house building) in an upcoming issue of this newsletter.

The Credit Union

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