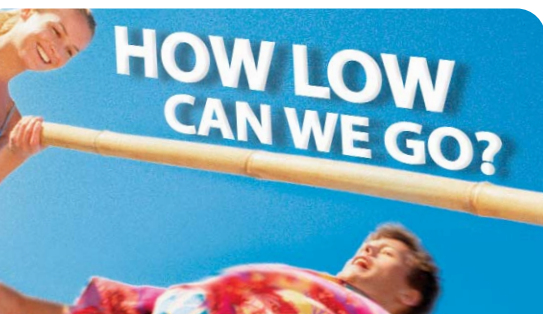


# The Credit Union

For All Government Employees

mycreditunion.ca

Ontario Civil Service Credit Union Ltd.



HOW LOW CAN WE GO?

We Dare You To Compare\*

CREDIT CARD vs. CONSOLIDATION LOAN\*\*

THE CREDIT UNION\*\*\*  
starting as low as **6.00%**

ROYAL VISA  
**18.50%**

CIBC VISA  
**18.50%**

CANADIAN TIRE  
**28.80%**

SEARS  
**28.80%**

\* Posted rates as of November 17, 2005.  
\*\* 60 month term.  
\*\*\* For qualified members. Rates subject to change. Variable rate.



## This Holiday Season, Discover The Joys Of THE EXCHANGE® Network.

As you do your holiday shopping or visit family and friends in far away places, you can discover the many advantages of THE EXCHANGE® Network. Not only can you MAKE WITHDRAWALS but you can also MAKE DEPOSITS (which are subject to the same holding rules when you make deposits at our ATMs), for only \$1.00 per transaction. (As always, you can use our ATMs free of charge!).

Now more than 2,000 full-service ATMs across Canada!

To find THE EXCHANGE® Network ATMs wherever you're going, visit [www.the-exchange.ca](http://www.the-exchange.ca) for ATM Locations. Or look for THE EXCHANGE® Network symbol at participating ATMs!

## Wrap up this year with a gift for yourself.



FACT: TOTAL COST OF HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING, ENTERTAINING, AND EATING FOR EACH CANADIAN ADULT IS \$1,300.

### The Come-Out-Of-Your-Shell Consolidation Loan

With the hectic holiday season upon us, there's one simple gift you can give to yourself. Discover the pure joy of paying off all your credit card balances with a Come-Out-Of-Your-Shell Consolidation Loan. Just take ten minutes and talk to The Credit Union today and we'll show you how we can help make your high interest debts go away.

FACT: EACH CANADIAN SPENDS AN AVERAGE OF \$358 ON HOLIDAY FOOD.

### Enjoy The Peace Of Mind Of Paying Less

Why pay 18% to 28% in interest when you could be paying as little as 6%? A Consolidation Loan from The Credit Union can easily save you hundreds, even thousands, of dollars in interest, plus you'll have just one payment a month instead of juggling a few.

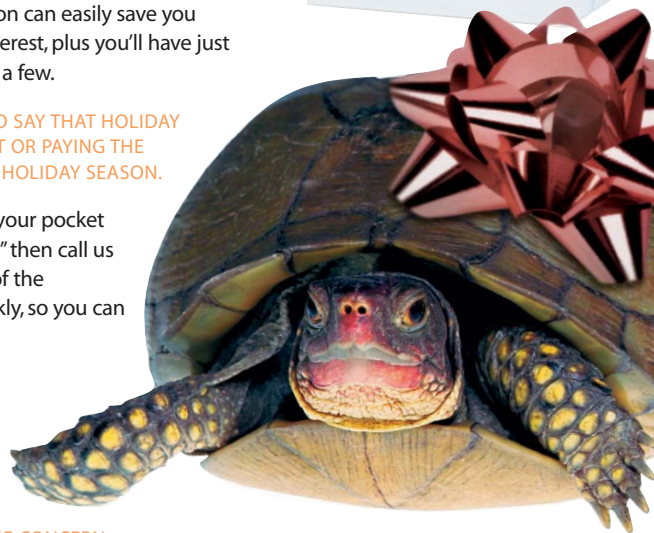
FACT: RESPONDENTS WERE EQUALLY APT TO SAY THAT HOLIDAY SHOPPING (28%) AND GOING OVER BUDGET OR PAYING THE BILLS (27%) WERE THE WORST PART OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

If saving money and having more cash in your pocket every month is at the top of your "wish list" then call us or come into your branch. We'll take care of the paperwork and get it all wrapped up quickly, so you can look forward to less stress in the new year!

FACT: ANXIETY ABOUT BEING ABLE TO PAY POST-CHRISTMAS BILLS IMPACTS 40% OF CANADIANS. 15% OF CANADIANS REPORT A HIGH LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO PAY FOR THE CREDIT CARD AND OTHER BILLS AFTER THE HOLIDAY SEASON WHILE ANOTHER 22% REPORT SOME CONCERN.



*'Tis the season to be jolly!  
Tell your friends,  
co-workers or family  
members to give us a call!  
We'd love to help them too!*



## GO Figure Educate Yourself On RESPs!

How much will you need to fund your child's education? Figure it out fast with GO Figure's easy-to-use Education Calculator. Take the guesswork out and set realistic goals that will cover tuition and housing, with a few quick clicks of your mouse. You'll also find Education Strategies outlining advantageous savings options like RESPs.

GO Figure is a complimentary Online Resource Centre available to our members through our web site. Visit [www.mycreditunion.ca](http://www.mycreditunion.ca), go to "planning tools" and click on GO Figure. Then simply click on the "Education" tab.

It's as easy as





# Plan Ahead

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

# Look out for bad elves watching over your shoulder.

CU TIP

## Your Year-End Financial Check List

The end of the 2005 tax year is fast approaching. Here is a checklist of tax planning things to be done prior to December 31st.

- If you turned 69 in 2005**, you must wind up your RRSP by December 31st. If you have unused contribution room, make a final contribution by December 31st. There is one exception, if your spouse is younger than you, then you can still make a spousal contribution until they turn 69.
- Make a spousal RRSP contribution prior to year end** in order to reduce the length of time that must pass before the spouse may withdraw the funds without it being taxed back to the contributor.
- Make RESP contributions for your children** in order to be eligible for the Canada Education Savings Grant. If your child turned 15 this year, this is the last year in which you can open an RESP and qualify for the grant.
- Make charitable donations** before year end in order to be able to include in 2005 tax return.
- If you have a non-registered investment portfolio**, trigger accrued losses before year end. If you have realized capital gains from this year or one of the three prior years, you may offset any of this year's losses against those gains. You must use the current year first. Remember that the settlement date must be prior to December 31st.
- Look at the interest on your loans.** Was the loan used to buy an investment? If it was then you may be able to claim the interest paid on your loan. Be very careful here - you must be able to prove to CRA that the proceeds of the loan did buy the investment.
- If you are considering withdrawing from your RRSP in December to purchase a home**, you might want to consider holding off until the new year. By delaying the withdrawal until 2006, the repayment will not start until a year later.
- If you participated in the Home Buyers program prior to 2004**, you must start paying back to your RRSP by the RRSP deadline of March 1, 2006.

How can you keep this holiday season merry? While your debit card gets a workout at stores and ATMs, here are a few tips to ensure that this most popular way of paying remains hassle-free.

- Always COVER UP the keypad when you're punching in your PIN. Be aware of people trying to peer over your shoulder or the possibility that there is a camera overhead.
- NEVER let your card out of sight and WATCH CAREFULLY that they don't DOUBLE SWIPE.
- LOWER YOUR DAILY LIMITS on all your debit cards. If its over \$500 a day, its probably too much. Thieves like to clean out accounts on long weekends. Reducing your daily limit is as easy as a phone call.
- LOWER YOUR AVAILABLE CREDIT on credit cards. For instance, if you have a \$10,000 limit and you never go past \$5,000, there's really no need to have all that extra credit available. Call your credit card company and ask them to reduce your limit. (If you have a \$10,000 maximum and you're always at your limit, then it's time to call The Credit Union for a consolidation loan!)



## Are You A "Passive" Saver?

### Get "Active" Today!

How are Canadians increasing their assets these days? According to Statistics Canada, it's not by tucking away a few dollars for a rainy day. In fact, Canadians are now spending more than their disposable income but somehow household "net worth" has continued to rise.

How is that possible? The average house price in Canada has risen by almost 50 per cent since 1997. As a result, Canadians are saving their money "passively" through gains in the real estate market and equities, rather than actively making financial savings. But experts are predicting that the real estate boom is due to level off in the near future, so households won't be seeing such dramatic increases in "passive" savings.

### Curbing our appetite for overspending

Many financial advisors agree, young and even middle-aged Canadians are not saving enough. And Canadians of all age groups need to stop overspending and start saving money more actively.

**How can The Credit Union help? Talk to us today and we'll help you "activate" an automatic savings plan. Starting from as little as \$50 per pay, it's the most painless way to put money away and ensure your "net worth" is always on the rise.**



## Celebrating 60 years!

As 2005 winds down, we want to thank all of our members for a wonderful year of celebration. What started 60 years ago remains true today, as we continue to honour and build on the important principles our founders put in place to help our members build better lives.

### OUR MISSION:

To provide convenient, competitive and friendly financial services to our members.

### OUR PURPOSE:

Working with government employees and their families to help them meet their financial service needs, so that they may prosper and obtain their financial goals.

### OUR DISTINCT PHILOSOPHY:

A member-owned, not-for profit co-operative, serving the needs of government employees and their families.

### OUR COMMITMENT:

To provide our members with the best possible products and services at the best possible price.

We look forward to the new year and another successful 60 years!

*Season's Greetings & Best Wishes from the Staff and Board of Directors*

### Holiday Hours

December 23, 2005	Regular Hours
December 26, 2005	Closed
December 27, 2005	Closed
December 28, 29th & 30th, 2005	Regular Hours
January 2, 2006	Closed

## MEMBER ASSISTANCE

416.314.6772

1.888.516.6664

## The Credit Union

For All Government Employees  
Ontario Civil Service Credit Union Ltd.

18 Grenville Street  
Toronto ON M4Y 3B3  
[www.mycreditunion.ca](http://www.mycreditunion.ca)

**Member Assistance**  
416-314-6772 or 1-888-516-6664

**Direct Teller**  
416-325-6818 or 1-800-387-0602