



A recent survey found

**62% of respondents**

rated their investment

ability as only fair or poor.

**56% admit** they are not

saving enough for retirement.

*We offer complimentary financial planning services to all our members, to ensure that you have the expert assistance that is needed to manage your portfolio.*

**Fact:** A 2005 study indicated Canadian Baby Boomers, if given more free time, would rather do housework than investment research. In fact, 19% equate investment research with going to the dentist.

**We dare you to compare!\***

**Credit Cards vs. Consolidation Loan**

<b>The Credit Union</b>	<b>6.25%</b>
Royal Visa	18.50%
CIBC Visa	18.50%
Canadian Tire	28.80%
Sears	28.80%

**Car Loan Rate**

<b>The Credit Union</b>	<b>5.50%</b>
Royal Bank	7.75%
CIBC	7.50%

\* Posted rates as of February 20, 2006.  
60 month term. For qualified members.  
Variable rate. Subject to change.

## You don't need a fortune to use our Financial Planning services.

You've got some RRSPs, a few GICs, a couple of credit cards, and perhaps a mortgage.

If you're like the majority of Canadians, you haven't sat down yet to see exactly how all your assets add up and formulate a wealth management plan that will ensure that you are making the most of your finances.

People who need the advice most often have modest incomes and need help with emergency funds, paying off debt or making plans for the future. Since they can't find an advisor, they turn to a bank where they can purchase mutual funds or set up an RRSP or RESP, but get little advice.

Many Canadians have been left stranded because the financial planning industry has become "upmarket" - financial advisors that use to take on clients with a minimum of \$25,000, now require somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$150,000 to get any service.

That's another big difference about belonging to The Credit Union.

**The Credit Union firmly believes that financial planning is a basic necessity** and offers financial planning to all of our members, regardless of how much you have to invest each year or your total asset size. Members can trust the credit union always has your best interests at heart. Our only goal is to ensure that we follow "our purpose" - working with government employees and their families to help you meet your financial service needs so that you may prosper and obtain your financial goals.

We offer complimentary financial planning services to all our members, to ensure that you have the expert assistance that is needed to manage your portfolio.

Many members simply "park" their contribution in an account just before the RRSP deadline. After that, they can really benefit from the advice of an expert to invest their funds wisely. Now that the big rush to contribute to your 2005 RRSP is over, we invite you to take full advantage of our financial planning services.

Call your Personal Account Manager or Member Assistance today and they can help you set up an appointment with one of our Financial Advisors. They're ready to help you build your fortune without having to spend a penny.

## QuickTaxWeb – available online

Last year over 600 members used it! Discover how simple it is to prepare and file your 2005 tax return online with QuickTaxWeb!

Just click on the QuickTaxWeb line on The Credit Union's home page and take advantage of our exclusive member discount. As a member of The Credit Union, you'll get 25% OFF the regular rates of \$19.95 for a single return!

It's another special benefit that saves our members time and money!

Easy online forms & filing!

**Special 25% Member Discount!**  
**April 30th deadline!**

## Important Announcement

### AGM Notice - 61st Annual General Meeting

All members and staff are invited to join us as we review the successes of the past year and look ahead to our goals for the future.

**Tuesday, April 11, 2006  
Metro-Central YMCA Auditorium  
20 Grosvenor St, Toronto, Ontario.**

**Registration begins at 5:00 p.m.  
Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.**

All members on record as of March 31, 2006 are entitled to attend and participate.

We look forward to seeing you next month!

**Note:** Members must have photo ID.

### GO Figure – Tax Tips!

Do you know all about tax deferrals, income splitting, tax credits and trusts? GO Figure provides you with useful information about these money-saving tax strategies. Plus, you can connect directly to The Credit Union's Member Assistance Centre if you have any questions or work together with The Credit Union's Financial Planner or your Personal Account Manager when you use GO Figure.

GO Figure, is a FREE online Financial Planning Resource Centre available to all of 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 "tax planning" tab!

## Plan ahead with Sue Wyseman

# An automatic solution to RRSP stress

A lot of Canadians feel down in the dumps at this time of year, not only because of the cold weather, but many are snowed under a mountain of debt. Canada Pension and Employment Insurance premiums have resumed and are reflected in the pay cheques,

not to mention bills left over from Christmas, and trying to maximize your RRSP contribution before the March 1 deadline. How can one do it all?

*We need to find a balance of spending and saving for retirement.*

### It requires a behaviour change to get out of debt.

We have been in a low interest rate environment for a number of years, because of this many people have over-spent. With interest rates on the rise the cost of servicing this debt is becoming more expensive. In fact, total debt servicing is currently at 121%, which means we are spending more than we are making. We are also not saving enough for retirement (we are currently at the lowest savings rate since the depression). We need to find a balance of spending and saving for retirement.

There is one simple way you can change your behaviour that will be sure to have a positive impact. While this year's RRSP deadline has passed, now is the perfect time to call The Credit Union and have your RRSP contributions debited automatically on a monthly basis, you won't have to scramble anymore to come up with the money in February and it will help ease those mid-winter money blues!

## Preventing fraudulent withdrawals has caused some confusion

With identity theft and ATM fraud on the rise, last summer The Credit Union implemented extra security precautions to better protect your money and the money of the entire membership.

### The security precautions included:

- ATM and direct payment withdrawal limits were lowered so that accounts were not as vulnerable to fraudulent withdrawals.
- Holds placed on ATM deposits until the deposits can be verified the next business day.
- Large deposits of \$5,000 or more at either ATMs or in branch will be held until the cheque deposit can be verified.

### If this has affected your banking, we are recommending:

- When you make a large deposit, use certified cheques or bank drafts to avoid any delays.
- If you are going to make large withdrawals or large direct payments, contact member assistance to have your limit temporarily increased.
- Speak to your Personal Account Manager to review other alternatives.

**We recognize that these changes have caused confusion for some of our members and we want to extend our sincere apologies.**

**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