



FACT:

Surveys find 1 in 5 Canadians blame lack of cash for not taking holidays.

Source: IpsosReid

With a loan from The Credit Union, you'll not only get a great low rate, we'll also tailor the payments to fit your budget and you'll always have the peace of mind that you're paying it down sensibly.

FACT:

Renovations in 2005, hit \$38 billion outpacing new home construction in Canada.

Source: homebuildercanada

We dare you to compare!*

Credit Cards vs. Consolidation Loan

The Credit Union	6.50%
Royal Visa	18.50%
CIBC Visa	18.50%
Canadian Tire	18.90%
Sears	28.80%

Car Loan Rate

The Credit Union	5.50%
Royal Bank	7.75%
CIBC	7.75%

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

Loans help members "Spring For More"

Rejuvenate. Renovate. Reorganize.

How can you get more out of everyday life? That's a question The Credit Union loves to help members answer. Whether you're starting out, busy meeting the needs of a growing family, or looking towards retirement, we are committed to working with you to make your goals happen.

For the majority of Canadians, the notion of borrowing to buy a home or a car is commonplace, and even expected. However, many people hesitate to take out a loan for any other reason.

Whether you want to renovate your home, rejuvenate with a vacation, or reorganize and clean up your high interest debts, we have a lending solution that lets you "spring for more" in your life.

A Better Solution Than Credit Cards and Store Payment Plans. Many people find it easy to sign up for credit cards, department store cards, retail payment plans and "Don't pay until..." offers where you could end up paying up to triple the interest rate. They don't think of credit cards as a loan but an easy way to get the things they want. The problem is, if you can't pay off the full balance each month, you end up paying excessive interest rates, which can add up to hundreds, even thousands, of dollars out of your pocket each year.

As a smaller financial institution dedicated to doing the best for our members, The Credit Union has focused on our strength of providing low cost loans that enable our members to achieve their dreams.

Our loans have empowered members to take that trip of a lifetime, add value to their homes, and feel more in control of their finances. They've helped with educational needs, orthodontistry and special projects. Whatever it is you want to do, never be afraid to ask. The Credit Union takes pride in the many stories where our loans have helped members on their path to personal success.

Come in, call, or apply online today. We're ready to help you "spring for more" right now.

QuickTaxWeb

The deadline is looming.

Why not try QuickTaxWeb this year and discover how simple it is to prepare and file your 2005 tax return online?

As a member of The Credit Union, you'll get 25% OFF the regular rates of \$19.95 for a single return!

All it takes is one quick click on QuickTaxWeb on The Credit Union's home page (mycreditunion.ca) and you'll be connected. Last year, over 600 members took advantage of this convenient time-saving service.

61st Annual General Meeting

We look forward to seeing members this month at our AGM, as we review the successes of the past year and plan for our future.

DATE: Tuesday, April 11, 2006
PLACE: 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.

NOTE: Members must have photo ID.

Air bags and safety

Consumers ask questions - The Personal Insurance answers

Q: *When do airbags inflate?*

A: Air bags are designed to deploy in a front-end crash. They are not designed to inflate in rear-end, rollover crashes or in most side crashes.

Q: *What can we expect of air bag systems in the future?*

A: To reduce the incidence of air-bag-induced injury, motor vehicle manufacturers are developing "smart" air bags. The next generation of air bag systems will probably have proximity sensors that gauge how close an occupant is to the air bag module and will be equipped with warning systems that signal when someone is too close—for instance, when a driver has fallen asleep and is slumped over the steering wheel.

GO Figure – Online tools make "tax time" easier

How can you make "tax time" a less taxing time? Online tools like **GO Figure** are making it easier than ever to have information and the numbers you need right at your fingertips. **GO Figure** provides you with money-saving tax strategies, easy-to-use calculators plus worksheets that you can save and refer to again and again.

GO Figure is a FREE online Financial Planning Resource Centre available to all of our members through our website. Visit www.mycreditunion.ca, go to "planning tools", and click on **GO Figure**. Explore the site today and see all the different ways **GO Figure** can help you organize your finances!

Plan ahead with Sue Wyseman

Preparation makes tax-time easier

The April 30th tax filing date is drawing near. Many feel that having to do your taxes is a long complicated affair. There are ways to make it easier. Like being better prepared. Or using QuickTax, available for a reduced fee through our website at www.mycreditunion.ca. Here's some useful tax information many members ask me about each year.

Many feel that having to do your taxes is a long complicated affair. There are ways to make it easier.

Create a yearly file: Organize all your tax receipts, T4's, T5's, T2022A (Tuition and Education Amounts) and RRSP contribution receipts in a folder marked Income Tax 2005. While you're at it, make a folder for Income Tax 2006 to be more organized in the upcoming year.

Spousal deductions: If you are married and are using tax preparation software like QuickTax, the software will apply the deductions to the spouse where there will be greater tax savings.

Education deductions: If you have a child attending post secondary education, they will receive a T2022A, Tuition and Education Amounts from the educational institution. The child is only required to use enough

of this credit to bring their tax payable to zero. Any amounts left over can be transferred to a supporting parent or grandparent. To receive the largest tax credit possible it should be declared on the income tax of the parent with the higher income.

Repaying HBP and LLP: RRSP contributions intended as repayments under either the Homebuyers Plan or Life Long Learning Plan cannot be deducted from income as a deduction was received previously.

If you have any special questions about how any of these tax issues affect you, the financial planners at The Credit Union are always happy to help. By being better organized and using tax preparation software, the annual tax filing day won't seem as daunting.

Credit card security tip

Getting captured on camera phones

The RCMP recently issued an advisory to financial institutions, alerting us to another growing identity theft and fraud scam that is happening as a result of the proliferation of camera phones. With the new camera cell phones, thieves can take a picture of your credit card, which gives them your name, number and expiration date. Stay alert for people with cell phones in hand standing near you in the checkout line at retail stores, restaurants, and grocery stores. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes today, and this is one of the latest ways that thieves are capturing your information.

**The
Credit Union**

For All Government Employees

Ontario Civil Service Credit Union Ltd.

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www.mycreditunion.ca

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

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