



# MEPP MATTERS

Spring 2014

## Five ways to help you stay on track in your 40s, 50s and beyond

This is the second in a two-part series on competing financial priorities and what aspects to focus on depending on your age.

Is your financial future headed down the right path? Our team of Retirement Information Consultants (RICs) are CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER professionals who suggest you focus on these five areas in your forties, fifties and beyond – keeping you on track as you get closer to your retirement goals.

### 1) Envision your future

Are you considering or have you already set a retirement date? To help, you can access **MORE** – a secure, personalized and easy-to-use online retirement planner.

**MORE** allows you to see how different retirement options and different retirement dates will affect your future pension. To access **MORE**, visit the MEPP website from the comfort and privacy of your own home.

### 2) Review your priorities

It's important to have a written plan to help achieve your goals, and to revisit it as you move through life. Financial priorities change. Whether you're planning to do home renos, help your kids with tuition costs, or care for elderly parents, it's important to have an up-to-date plan in place to make sure you're saving enough to achieve your goals.

### 3) Stay on top of debt

Be smart with credit cards and your line of credit. Keeping your debt low will ease your financial shift into retirement. It's important to pay down high interest loans and credit card balances first.

### 4) Protect your nest egg

Financial planners suggest you set aside three to six months of living expenses in a rainy day fund, to help pull you through unexpected situations, while protecting your retirement goals.

Consult a professional to update your will, power of attorney and health care directive. Keep documents safe and let others know where to find them. Insurance against the unexpected (disability or sickness) will provide a further safeguard for your savings.

### 5) Take a test run

Practice living within your predicted retirement budget to avoid under-estimating your expenses as your retirement date approaches. This will allow you the opportunity to review your spending habits, and ensure that you are being financially realistic with your goals.

Keeping these five areas on track will help smooth your transition into retirement.



## MEPP Plan Review...a chance to voice *your* opinion

As summer approaches, watch your mail box for information on the upcoming MEPP Member Consultations. These will be taking place throughout the province starting later this summer and continuing into the fall.

These consultations will give you, our valued members, a chance to learn more about possible changes that may be needed in the coming years to ensure the Plan is sustainable for years to come.

## It's not too late to send us your certified documents

The annual MEPP Member Statements were mailed out in early March. On page two, there is a section indicating if we require any documentation to bring your file up-to-date.

This is a friendly reminder to send in certified copies of the required documents to our office. Not sure what 'certified' means? To learn more, go to the MEPP website ([www.peba.gov.sk.ca/mepphome.htm](http://www.peba.gov.sk.ca/mepphome.htm)), select *Forms* and then click on *PEBA Acceptable Documentation*.

## Is retirement on the horizon for you? We can help!

Planning is key to a successful transition into retirement and as a MEPP member, you have access to a variety of valuable tools and resources. One of the most popular is the *RetireWithEase* workshop.

Whether you're in your forties, fifties or beyond, be sure to attend this *free* workshop. Here are the main areas covered:

- Assessing your current situation;
- Understanding the retirement planning process;
- Helping you envision your retirement; and
- Guiding you to make a plan.

Over and over, members tell us how valuable this workshop is to them as they prepare for retirement and how they wished they would've attended sooner.

You can attend the *RetireWithEase* workshop more than once, plus you are welcome to bring your spouse or partner along.

Check the MEPP website for dates and locations near you and register today. Your retirement will be here sooner than you think.

## Where are you?

Do you recognize any names on this list? If so, please ask them to contact MEPP as soon as possible.

Delphine Bekkattla  
Brock W. McClelland  
Garry L. McLeod  
Ernest H. Desjarlais  
Bertha Birdsall  
Douglas Marchewka  
Ann L. Lindsey  
Charles D. Lamson  
Gregory G. Szaroz  
Donna M. May  
Arnold M.H. Coumont  
Abe Wiens  
Diane L. Nielsen  
Kenneth Thompson  
Theresa A. Demchuk  
Karen L. McEwen  
Susan L. McConnell  
Donald M. McDonald  
Helene Lessard  
Maureen E. Leland  
Richard G. Clavelle  
Barry E. Bailey

This newsletter provides general information about MEPP and its operation. It does not replace or supersede the legislation governing the Plan.

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MEPP Matters keeps over 23,000 members up-to-date on Plan news and benefits.