

Surfing For Exit Strategy Resources

Helpful Websites & Spots with Good Information

Service Canada

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/lifeevents/retirement.shtml>

The main website for government information and income funding. It is easy to understand and provides calculators to determine financial entitlements. It clarifies who to contact, when to apply and implications for accessing funds at different ages. Good site!

Rule of thumb: Many financial planners say you need 70% of your current (pre-tax) earnings to maintain the same standard of living in retirement. Ex: earn \$40,000 now, aim for \$28,000 in retirement.

Income Security Programs

<http://www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca/Eng/forConsumers/lifeEvents/planningRetirement/Pages/Sourceso-Sourcesd.aspx>

Although still Government of Canada, it goes deeper into the policies, rules and regulations for these programs. It provides useful answers and links for information inquiries. People can access applications, on-line contributions lists, income calculators and personal information for both the CPP and OAS

Service Canada - Welcome to the Canadian Retirement Income Calculator

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/services/pensions/cric.shtml>

This site contains multiple pages and sources to help calculate your income at retirement. There is great flexibility to look at options and insert different ages of retirement.

There is a good definition section to explain what certain monies are called, where they come from and eligibility requirements. A good site to describe top-ups and subsidies if income is low or disabilities exist.

Everything Zoomer

<http://www.everythingzoomer.com/>

The leading Canadian website for people 45 and over. An informative spot to spend time – quite fun and informative. It offers articles and advertisements on health, home, money, travel, lifestyle, arts & entertainment as well as sex & relating.

They also offer the Canada Zoomer Magazine – online or a printed subscription. Check it out once to see if it will be a great resource for you.

RetirementAdvisor.ca

<https://www.retirementadvisor.ca/retadv/apps/articles/primer.jsp?primerPage=main&learningMenu=primer>

This site focuses on personal finances and requires people to know a lot about their financial situation and inflation rates. It felt like a financial planner was needed to complete the calculator.

The primer section of the site is good. It provides clear and concise information on government programs, RRSPs, RRIFs, pension plans, estate planning and other topics in a question and answer format. It puts some of the financial lingo into easier and understandable language.

Canadian Association of Pre-Retirement Planners

http://www.retirementplanners.ca/site_map.html

This site provides links to websites for retirement, life planning, health and financial issues. It covers many topics but focuses on relationships and technology and all the changes that come with it (i.e., cyber dating, chat rooms, etc.).

Volunteer Canada

<http://volunteer.ca>

This is a great site – lots of great information and one stop shopping about volunteering options. It has a tab “I Want to Volunteer” that gets you started and walks you through the steps. This might help people who are questioning their purpose, role and how to contribute to society and give back to their community. There is also a “Get Matched” button to get things going. Try it out!

Books for Retirement

<http://www.chapters.indigo.ca> & <http://www.amazon.com>

There is no end to the amount of books about retirement. The topics that can be discussed and the authors who have an opinion are endless. The best suggestion I will offer is to use Chapters and Amazon sites to search their “top 10 list”. From there you can read reviews, narrow the topic and select a book that resonates with you and your style of reading. Remember: if you buy a book and don't like it, return it quickly and get one that is a better read and fit for you.

Financial Planning Standards Council

<http://www.fpsc.ca/10-questions-ask-your-planner>

Two things are critical when working on your financial picture. The first is that you have a certified financial planner (CFP), someone who has taken the required courses to hold the credential CFP and is registered with the national association. The second is that you ask key questions to any financial planner you are thinking of working with to ensure you understand his/her ability and costs. Here is site to get you educated and gives you the 10 necessary interview questions.

Best of luck in your exit strategy planning

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