



Separating Retirement Realities from Myths for Ontarians

Ontario residents have a variety of misconceptions about their finances for retirement, from when they should start saving to the amount they will need, according to a recent TD poll.

Irene Dibattista, Senior Financial Planner, TD Waterhouse Financial Planning, based in Binbrook, Ontario, is available to discuss the results of the TD poll and offer advice for Ontarians for separating retirement planning and saving myths from reality to help them plan appropriately for their retirement.

Myth or Reality?

Myth: You should focus on eliminating debt before saving for your retirement.

Two-thirds of Ontarians (64%) think you should focus on eliminating debt before saving for retirement, and they are also the most likely in the country to feel that you should never retire with any debt (73% vs. 66% nationally).

According to Dibattista:

- Retiring without any debt may not be realistic for some Ontarians.
- It's important to pay down as much debt as possible before retiring, but it's also essential to strike a balance between reducing debt and saving for retirement.

Myth: In an economic downturn it's safer to sell your investments and only put your money in guaranteed investments.

Forty-four percent of Ontarians believe that putting money only in guaranteed investments or selling investments is the safest strategy during an economic downturn.

According to Dibattista:

- The reality is there will always be fluctuations in the markets, but in times of volatility it's essential to stick to your plan and not react emotionally.
- Just as saving for retirement is a long-term process, having your money in the equity market is a long-term investment.
- An advisor can help you determine the right asset allocation for your portfolio, which will optimize potential returns without exposure to inappropriate levels of risk.

Myth: The older you get, the less money you spend / need for day-to-day expenses.

Almost half of Ontarians (48%) believe that your expenses decrease as you age.

According to Dibattista:

- While expenses may decrease as we enter our retirement years, recent surveys of retired Canadians have shown that their daily expenses are higher than they anticipated - this may be because they haven't taken into account everyday expenses such as dental and health care, or unforeseen expenses such as accidents or home repair.
- Work with an advisor to estimate what your expenses will be in retirement, and calculate to ensure that you are saving enough now to pay for these future expenses when you probably will not be generating as much income.



Myth: You don't need to have money in the stock market to grow your retirement nest egg.

Four in ten Ontarians (42%) believe that investing in the stock market is an important way to establish a financially-secure retirement.

According to Dibattista:

- When it comes to retirement savings, it's important to establish a good balance and have a variety of investments and savings products, including equities, bonds, and savings vehicles such as an RRSP or TFSA.
- Your portfolio should also contain a mix of conservative and more aggressive investments, depending on the number of years you have until retirement and your comfort level, which will help you maximize your retirement savings.

About the TD Poll

Results for the TD Poll were collected through a custom, online survey fielded by Environics Research Group. A total of 1,006 completed surveys were collected with Canadians aged 25 – 64 who are not retired, including 250 in Ontario. Data was collected between November 22 and December 2, 2011.

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