

# A Husband's Point Of View

## A.M.H. Financial Services



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Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah!

It is my sincere hope that although we are in the middle of a pandemic that you will have a happy and healthy holiday season. It will be very different from other Christmas's and Hanukkah's to be sure, however we need to make the best of it. Please stay home and keep the virus at bay.

Few people focus on the details of retirement income planning during their careers. So the need for information becomes much greater as retirement approaches.

If you're approaching retirement, chances are you've asked yourself two questions about your retirement plans:

1. How much will I need?
2. Will I have enough?

Ensuring you have enough for your retirement can take years of disciplined saving. It can be a painstaking process, especially with so many other demands for your money. When you're approaching retirement, you'll want to make the best use of the money you've worked so hard to save.

A retirement income plan is simply a strategy that you use to generate your retirement income. An efficient and well organized plan is designed to maximize the performance of your retirement savings based on your personal life and financial goals.

While it's possible to structure your own retirement income plan, the advice of a professional advisor can be invaluable. A good advisor will take the time to understand your goals, then recommend a strategy to best achieve them. No two situations are the same. It's often worth the time to get specific one-on-one advice.

If you are preparing for retirement or are already retired, I believe I can help you reach your investment goals and objectives.

To find out how a retirement income plan might be structured, give me a call (780) 425-4058 or email me at [andy@amhfinancial.ca](mailto:andy@amhfinancial.ca).



### On the Lighter Side

If you accidentally drop ice cubes on the floor, just gently kick them under the refrigerator. Soon it'll be just water under the fridge.

I'm considering taking a position to translate old Mongolian poetry. The job has its prose and Khans.

There were lots of German electricians in my granddads town. He always to tell me, many Hans make lights work.

What did the dog say when it ran into the tree? Bark!



## Retirement Blunders



Its never too early... or too late ... to plan!



### Placing “Big Bets”

A “big bet” can be tempting, especially if you feel the need to catch up on your retirement savings or if the person giving you the tip is someone you respect. But that is mixing emotion and investing decisions, a potential recipe for heartache and regret.

### Being too Conservative in Investing

The very nature of the phrase “conservative investing” implies a sober, prudent and cautious approach with low risk and less volatility. But like so many things, “conservative investing” might not be as prudent and safe as it sounds.

### Paying Excessive Fees

A common blunder retirees make is paying excessive fees. That’s one of our biggest problems with annuities, as some annuity types can have ongoing fees much higher than other investments or insurance products.

### Ignoring the Insidious Effects of Inflation

Right now we are living in a pandemic and economies have been seriously affected. So why worry about inflation when it’s low? Whether inflation becomes a dramatic problem or simply an ongoing, insidious erosion of your purchasing power, it is something investors should prepare for if they want their retirement funds to keep pace with increasing costs.

### Ignoring International Stocks

Canadians are known for their patriotism—sometimes called Canadianism— but your investment portfolio is one place you should put any home-country biases aside. If your portfolio is focused exclusively in a single country, you are taking on additional risk because you are targeting a narrower market and are missing out on global investment opportunities.

### Trying, but Failing to Diversify

Almost the opposite of “placing big bets”, is false diversification. This is where you think you are diversifying, but really aren’t. True diversification increases your investable opportunity and helps reduce volatility in the long term.

Before structuring a retirement income plan, you need to understand the different sources of retirement income. Why: Because each source has it’s own set of rules and understanding the rules is the key to making the most of your retirement assets.

### The Future of Government Retirement Benefits

CPP is facing a challenging future due to the changing demographics of the Canadian workforce More Canadians are reaching retirement age, with fewer younger workers remaining to fund the plan. This is all the more reason why it is so important to plan for your retirement early on and stick to your plan.

## Retirement Is a Journey

**Your retirement is more than a destination—  
it's a journey that can last 30 years or more.  
Make the most of it.**



## ***Retirement Planning 101***

You can ask yourselves these simple questions to help start the conversation and begin building a retirement plan that meets your needs:

### **When do you want to retire?**

You and your spouse/partner will need to figure out when to retire. Without knowing that, it could be difficult to know how much income you'll need after you stop working.

### **How much money will you need?**

Figure out how much money you'll need to have the retirement you both want. Will the two of you be happy if you have less income than you do now? If that sounds like it could affect your big plans, such as traveling or buying a cottage, then you may need to figure out how you can get more income.

### **What do you really want to do after retiring?**

What do each of you really want to do? If your partner is excited about seeing the world but you're more interested in trips closer to home, then you need to have a chat about those plans.

### **Do you want to work in retirement?**

Retiring doesn't have to mean you've left work behind. You and your partner may have personal passion projects – such as writing a novel or starting a business – that could help create income in retirement. If that's the case, then it's worth talking about your plans with your partner.

### **What are your guaranteed income sources?**

You should have at least a couple of guaranteed sources of retirement income, though this depends on where you live and your work before retiring. Most Canadians have access to funding through Old Age Security and the Canada Pension Plan (or, in Quebec, the Quebec Pension Plan). You may also get income through a workplace pension, or maybe you've invested in an income annuity or RRSP?

### **Consider your health and wellness**

Your health matters. It's not always easy, but it's a good idea to talk about your health and the health of family members that may affect your lifestyle or financial situation in retirement. A change would mean spending more time at home or maybe spending more time in a warmer climate to improve your health and wellness – you'll have to financially prepare to make those plans happen.

### **Keep your money growing**

For couples who feel passionate about seeing their savings grow in retirement, there are options. For example, you could look at investing in a segregated fund policy that offers guaranteed protection as well as the potential for investment growth. Or, you could put your money in a retirement program that combines segregated funds with income annuities, which can provide you with a regular source of money in retirement.

### **Estate planning**

As you get close to retirement, it's a good time for you and your partner to look at estate planning. Think about who should get your assets if you and your partner die. If you haven't looked at this recently, then it may be a good time to go back to them to make sure they meet your needs.



**Financial Advisor**  
**Since 1976**

**MY COMMITMENT AS A FINANCIAL ADVISOR IS TO HELP PEOPLE TO REACH THEIR FINANCIAL GOALS. IF YOU HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE WHO YOU FEEL COULD BENEFIT FROM A CONVERSATION WITH ME, I WOULD BE PLEASED TO SPEAK WITH THEM WITHOUT OBLIGATION.**



Phone: (780) 425-4058  
email: [andy@amhfinancial.ca](mailto:andy@amhfinancial.ca)

Take a look at our website!

**[www.amhfinancial.ca](http://www.amhfinancial.ca)**

AMH Financial Services is a full-service firm. We offer services to help you examine your financial goals and select the options that will best suit your needs, timeframe and investment style. We believe in helping you create a comprehensive financial plan for your family that includes planning, insurance and portfolio management.

Understanding what matters to you.

As life changes, your financial priorities evolve. That's why at AMH Financial Services we are here to understand you first, and then your financial picture.

We take the time to understand your unique investment goals. Through an in-depth discovery process, we'll get to know who you are and what truly matters to you and your family.

I believe that every individual has an unalienable right to make the best and most effective use of hard-earned income, to have easy access to up-to-date and informed advice, and to be able to provide for short and long-term requirements.

I am committed to serving the individual customer with investment and financial portfolios which will meet current needs and provide for future requirements and situations.



My mission is to help you to make an educated decision that you are comfortable with!

