



# RETIREMENT RAMP-UP

## How? When? What's my plan?

To better grasp the financial issues faced by older Canadians in and approaching retirement, the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) commissioned a survey<sup>1</sup> of 1,500 people age 50 and older. Through the survey, the OSC discovered 3 key lessons that respondents wish they had better understood and planned for as they ramped up to retirement.

## LESSON 1



### EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Despite financial planning, older Canadians were often caught off guard by and didn't have enough savings for unexpected events that frequently occurred near retirement. The top 3 events were:

1. Supporting a family member
2. Covering health-care expenses
3. Loss of investments or income

**FACT** 58% of respondents experienced major life events that challenged their financial plans<sup>2</sup>

## LESSON 2



### YOU NEED A RETIREMENT PLAN

Among older Canadians who intend to retire in the next 10 years, 32% haven't done any retirement planning. Of those who are unsure about when they'll retire, 48% haven't made any retirement plans.<sup>3</sup>

**FACT** Among retired persons under age 75, more than one-third (35%) reported that they were forced to retire earlier than they wanted<sup>4</sup>

## LESSON 3



### GET RETIREMENT ADVICE

**9/10** respondents felt financial advice in and approaching retirement would be useful<sup>5</sup>

#### Most useful advice:

1. How much income will be needed in the future
2. How to avoid outliving retirement income
3. How to prepare for future health challenges

## What you can do to prepare for these things:

- 1 Get a retirement plan in place, the sooner the better.** Consider creating an Investment Policy Statement (IPS) that outlines your goals, preferences and proactive responses to potential situations.  
**KICKSTART YOUR IPS** ▶
- 2 Consider the possibilities.** Think about events that disrupt retirement plans and how you'd want to deal with them. Get input from an advisor to add flexibility to your existing plans.  
**THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE** ▶
- 3 Keep the lines of communication open.** Have ongoing discussions with your advisor and adapt your retirement and investment plans as things change.  
**GET TIPS ON WORKING WITH AN ADVISOR** ▶

For more retirement resources and tips, visit [GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca](http://GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca)

<sup>1</sup> The survey was conducted on behalf of the Ontario Securities Commission by The Brondesbury Group.

<sup>2</sup> Ontario Securities Commission. Financial life stages of older Canadians, Spring 2015, p. 9.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11. <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17. <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 32.