

# *Your RRSP* **CHECKLIST**

## **RRSP Do...**

- 1** Invest in mutual funds with the help of your financial advisor who has the investment knowledge to help you reach your retirement goals.
- 2** Invest early and often. You will see benefits in the future by investing now. Because your investments are allowed to compound tax-free, there are significant advantages to investing early in the year or on a monthly basis.
- 3** Maximize your RRSP contribution and take advantage of your greatest opportunity to save for retirement and defer taxes.
- 4** Diversify your RRSP investments. Consider asset mix, performance, and risk.
- 5** Think long-term instead of letting market volatility keep you from sticking with your investment goals.
- 6** Consolidate your investments. Consider contributing existing non-registered investments in kind to your self-directed RRSP.
- 7** Take advantage of dollar-cost averaging. A monthly contribution plan will spread your mutual fund purchases over time and give you greater long-term returns.
- 8** Consider a spousal RRSP which can provide tax benefits to couples with diverse income levels.
- 9** Think RRSP first and mortgage second. Use the tax refund from your RRSP contribution to pay down your mortgage.
- 10** Consider an RRSP loan. Check out our web site to get up to date loan rates.





# *Your RRSP* **CHECKLIST**

## **RRSP Don't...**

- 1** Think it is too late to get started. It is never too late to invest in your future.
- 2** Neglect to contribute to your RRSP because you have diminished cash flow. You can always talk to your advisor about the advantages of an RRSP loan.
- 3** Wait until the February deadline. Always take appropriate time and consideration when making investment decisions.
- 4** Chase the hottest funds! Short-term performance history is not a reliable way to compare which funds will perform better over the long run.
- 5** Withdraw from your RRSP without advice from your GP Financial Advisor who can counsel you on your ability to repay it.
- 6** Lose faith in your investments if your portfolio does not perform well in the short-term. Don't forget that retirement planning involves investment decisions with long-term goals in mind.
- 7** Play it too safe and choose low risk investments only. You can minimize risk and maximize returns if you have a diversified portfolio. Be sure to include a variety of assets.
- 8** Put emphasis on returns only and not enough on risk. A balance of high risk and low risk investments is important.
- 9** Expect the current market conditions to persist and choose investments that capitalize on today's markets only. Create a portfolio with a mix of investments and market styles.
- 10** Forget to reinvest your tax refunds which can give you a jumpstart on next year's contributions.

Contact your financial advisor to discuss your RRSP options.

[www.gpwealth.ca](http://www.gpwealth.ca)