

Active Retired Members Chapter 29

Mark Your Calendar | Insurance and Estate Planning | Keeping You in the Loop

Next Meeting

Come join your fellow retirees to celebrate the holiday season!

Where: Federation House
Address: 114 Victoria Ave.,
Belleville, Ontario K8N 2A8
Contact Information:
(613) 968-3707
Menu: Wine and cheese
Date: 10 December 2024
Time: 2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.

Don't forget to email Doug with your RSVP by 3 December 2024!

Upcoming Plans

For those who like to plan ahead....

January 16: Breakfast
Where: Birdy's Fine Dining
Time: 9:30a.m.
Guest Speaker: TBD

February 20: Breakfast
Where: Birdy's Fine Dining
Time: 9:30a.m.
Guest Speaker: TBD

March 20: Breakfast
Where: Birdy's Fine Dining
Time: 9:30a.m.
Guest Speaker: TBD



RTIP RAER



Planning For Today and Tomorrow

ARM Chapter 29 was pleased to welcome Scott Westlake from OTIP and Randal Craig from Educators Financial as our guest speakers during our November meeting.

- i. **RTIP's Products and Services:** OTIP was the benefits administrator when you were teaching and is now RTIP in your retirement. Having no external shareholders means that any revenue generated supports current members, teaching and retired. Read on for a synopsis of some of the available benefits:
 - a. **Home and Life Insurance:** When it is time to renew your home and auto insurance you are invited to explore your options. Products are offered from a variety of carriers including Economical Insurance, Intact Insurance, CAA Insurance, and AVIVA. Even if you currently hold a policy with one of these agencies (e.g., CAA Insurance) you can benefit from additional savings by switching your current policy through OTIP without changing the policy itself. Talk to Scott for details.
 - b. **Claims Service:** This service is ready to assist you when you need to make a claim.
 - c. **Personal Cyber Insurance:** Available today as an add-on to your home insurance policy to protect you from scammers.





Your input, please!

Have a suggestion for the location of a future meeting? Contact Doug.

Have an idea for a future social event or future presenter/guest speaker? Contact Scott or Marian.

Know of someone who is not receiving ARM's communications or is newly retired? Contact Marian.

Your Executive

Feedback? Questions? Want to get more involved? Contact us!

- Doug Ferguson, President
email: armdistrict29@gmail.com
- Mike McMahon, Vice-President
email: mcmahon@kos.net
- Sharon Ostman,
Secretary-Treasurer
- Marian Moon,
New Member Coordinator
email: mbm@kos.net
- Scott Young,
Social Events Coordinator
email: xiscotty@gmail.com
- Jim Stewart, Past-President
- John Zikopoulos,
Founding President

d. Pet Insurance (coming in 2025).

e. Health Insurance: RTIP offers three plans - RTIP Plus 4000, RTIP Gold 2500, Gold 750 with the most significant difference centred on prescription drug coverage.

f. Travel Insurance: Covering travel both within province and internationally and included in all plans with no additional premium or age limit, this benefit includes: 100 consecutive days with an unlimited number of trips per year; up to \$10 million per person, per lifetime for emergency medical treatment; up to \$6,000 in trip interruption/cancellation insurance per person, per trip; and, 24-hour emergency assistance including medical referrals, transportation, arranging payment to health-care providers, notification to physician and family, and local care of dependents. This plan has a 90-day stability clause for preexisting conditions. Again, contact Scott for confirmation and for additional details.

g. Express Scripts Canada: This service provides 100% co-insurance on generic maintenance drugs. It offers a 90-day supply, low dispensing fee, blister packs, and delivery to your door.

h. Carepath (1-800-290-5106): Available immediately upon diagnosis, this service provides access to a dedicated oncology nurse who will work with you, your family, and care team to assist you through your cancer journey.

i. Starling Mental Fitness: Provides free, 24/7, unlimited support. All members can access Starling Minds to better understand their mental health, access substance-use support, find strategies for anxiety or depression, manage stress, and more. Check out otipraeo.starlingminds.com or email members@starlingminds.com for more information.

j. EdvantagePerks: an exclusive saving programs for members.

2. **Estate Planning via Educators Financial**: Does your financial planner hold the designation CFP (Certified Financial Planner)? Remember: anyone can *claim* to be a financial planner and work without licensing.

a. Questions to ask yourself: Regarding wills:

i. Do you have a will? (If not, a judge will decide who acts as your executor, including a public guardian if no one can be determined. This person will then. make decisions regarding your estate.)

ii. Where is your will located?

iii. Have you updated your will to reflect significant life changes?

iv. Was it drafted when you lived in another province? As wills fall under provincial jurisdiction, differences between provinces may need to be addressed.



Need some assistance?

Looking for some help?

- ARM Council
www.armcouncil.osstf.ca
- Financial/estate planning/advice:
Contact Edward Gougeon or
Randall Craig, CFP, TEP from
Educators Financial.
Ed can be reached at 1 (800)
263-9541 x 3554 or by email at
egougeon@educatorsfinancialgroup.ca.
Randy can be reached via his cell at
(416) 881-1389 or
rcraig@educatorsfinancialgroup.ca
- OTIP
 - ▶Have questions or difficulty with a health/travel insurance claim?
 - ▶Contact Scott Westlake
SWestlake@otip.com
- RTIP
 - ▶Contact Scott Westlake
SWestlake@otip.com
 - ▶To Submit a Claim:
rtip.otip.com OR
"RTIP on the go" app
 - ▶Questions about a claim or coverage: claims@rtip.otip.com
 - ▶Emergency Travel Support:
1 (800) 936-6226
 - ▶Contact Centre: 1 (833) 318-2811

v. What are your powers of attorney and has that been updated? Do you have two, one for health and another for property?

vi. Does your will include any digital assets?

vii. Have you chosen one executor or more than one? If an even number, how will tied decisions be resolved?

viii. Holding multiple wills is an option for some, such as those who possess international holdings. Should you?

ix. Is a testamentary trust (active only upon death) an option? Or, is an inter vivos trust (including bare trusts) more beneficial?

Note: A Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP) can review your will with you and aid in decision making. Check for this professional designation.


b. **Probate:** While we do not have inheritance taxes, we do have probate. It is the death of the second spouse that requires planning. The first \$50,000 of an estate has a probate of 0%. Thereafter, (i.e., \$50,001 +) probate constitutes 1.5%. While it protects the executor and the estate, there are means available to avoid probate such as naming beneficiaries on RRSPs, TFSA's, etc., or gifting now. Talk to a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). Contact Randy for confirmation and to discuss your specific circumstances.


ARM Information Corner

For those of you wishing to stay abreast of recent developments or issues in education, either in our local area or more generally, read on!

Putting the "Active" in Active Retired Members

Looking for something in which to get involved? Consider one of these options:

 Meals on Wheels: contact Cristina Cadavid, Fundraising & Community Relations Coordinator at ccadavid@unitedwayhpe.ca

 Quinte Society of Chamber Music: The QSCM welcomes those who wish to offer their time and talents in a number of areas including hosting performers, meal support for performers, venue set-up/tear-down, and technical/website support. Contact Bonnie Sallans (info@qscmusic.com) for more information.

Know of another local group that our members may wish to know more about? Contact Marian to include that organization in future newsletters.

RTIP Benefits

A friendly reminder that your 2025 RTIP renewal offer will be sent to you in early December. Why? The plan changes every January and this communication updates you as to any changes. You can expect to receive information via the email address RTIP has on file. If RTIP does not have a preferred email address on file, you will receive a physical renewal package in the mail. The current Canada Post labour dispute will have an impact on such delivery. Contact RTIP directly if you have not received your renewal offer.

You are reminded that each year at this time you may move up one level or down one to two levels without a medical exam thereby providing the opportunity for you to choose the plan that best fits your needs. Review your renewal offer including descriptions of the three RTIP levels and reach out to RTIP directly for further information and assistance, as needed.

Travel Tips

One of the benefits of active retirement is the opportunity to travel. Some members have suggested a section of the newsletter be dedicated to share travel tips. To get us started:

- From Doug Ferguson: Know how to get anywhere by bus, car, ferry, plane, or train (with links and fare information): romezrio.com

Contact Marian to share your travel tip/“hack” with fellow ARM members.

Upcoming Community Events

Know of an upcoming event which may be of interest to our members? Contact Marian.