

CONNECTIONS

JULY 2020



Message from Gail

Summer Greetings,

This has been a very unusual time for everyone. I hope that the flexibility of SPP for you and your employees has helped during this pandemic. Some businesses have closed; many are just now nicely open. Others are using SPP to help attract new employees! At SPP, we are open for business online, on the phone and at our Kindersley and Saskatoon offices. We appreciate the many referrals we get from business owners like you – growing membership helps us all. At SPP, we are all in it together!



I hope you like the new look of our newsletter and that you enjoy meeting the new employees who are working in Kindersley. And, I am always open to talking to your staff to help them keep up-to-date on their pension plans! If there are any topics you would like to see in the newsletter, please

let us know by emailing me: ggenest@saskpension.com.

I wish you all safe and prosperous days ahead.

Gail

Markets give investors mixed signals

To say 2020 has been a roller coaster in the financial markets is an understatement. January continued the previous year's growth but once the Coronavirus pandemic continued to spread worldwide, investors' fears sent both worldwide markets and economies into a tailspin. While the declines in the world-wide markets did not reach the levels of the 2008 Financial Crisis, the economy job loss numbers surpassed those of the Great Depression.

The fast action by world governments provided investors with renewed confidence. In a complete turn of events, April worldwide returns ranged from 13-15 per cent, the best one month returns in 80 years. May followed with positive numbers but more volatility than the previous month. As an investor planning for the remainder of 2020, where do we go from here?

Forecasts presented for the remainder of 2020 expect a flat or soft (slightly negative) summer. Over one-third of April's strong U.S. gains resulted from

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future deadlines

Transfers to SPP - the deadline for 2020 is December 31. Funds must be in the SPP office on or before this date.

2020 contribution deadline is March 1, 2021.

2021 contribution limit The 2021 contribution limit will be announced on SPP's website in December 2020.

Member statements will be in the mail July 27, 2020.

Blogs

Check out savewithspp.com for interesting articles, book reviews, financial results and celebrity interviews.

2020 returns

Fund	Q1	Q2	YTD
BF	-10.09%	8.43%	-2.51%
DIF	0.00%	3.45%	3.45%

Legend

BF - Balanced Fund
 DIF - Diversified Income Fund
 Q1 - First quarter
 Q2 - Second quarter
 YTD - Year to date

Visit saskpension.com for a complete list of returns and further information on investment performance

the performance of only six companies. There are many factors creating confusion for the world of investors.

Throughout all of the uncertainty, it is important to stay focused on your retirement goals and only revise your overall plan if specific goals change. These changes may be based on life events such as marriage, divorce, birth of a child, death of a spouse, retirement, buying or selling a home or even winning a lottery!

Long term plans will experience volatility from time to time and it is important to consider your portfolio

with respect to your overall objectives. If your risk tolerance changes as you get closer to retirement, your asset allocation could change to reflect your comfort level risk. At the end of the day, it is your money and the portfolio must provide you with a balance that will give you peace of mind and let you sleep at night.

History has experienced many Bull and Bear markets. In 2020, we have seen that markets and the world economies do not have direct correlation. It is important to have a plan that will provide you with the income you require for your retirement needs.

Position announcements at SPP

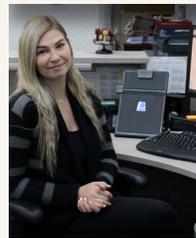
After many years in the role of Retirement Officer, Debbie retired this spring. She is missed at Saskatchewan Pension Plan (SPP) but we are excited as she starts a new adventure in life.



Alycia is the new Retirement Officer. Previously Alycia was one of our Client Service Reps where she developed a strong knowledge about SPP.

Call and ask for Alycia if you require assistance with retiring from SPP.

With Alycia changing positions, SPP has a new Client Service Rep. We are pleased to introduce Emily to you. Emily is busy learning all about SPP and is ready to field your calls. She can answer your questions regarding membership, change of beneficiaries, pre-authorized contributions and much more.



Congratulations Alycia and welcome Emily. We are very excited to have you both as members of our team.

Variable benefit update

Many readers of this newsletter have been asking when the variable benefit (VB) will be rolled out and I wish I had an exact date to give – but I don't. We advised members as early as possible of our intent to offer a VB as an additional option at retirement; that is our duty as a fiduciary. In hindsight we should not have speculated on when the product would be available. We have run into a number of development and testing issues that have delayed this date. While it is still expected prior to the end of 2020, I am unable to provide an exact date and for that I apologize.

Katherine Strutt, General Manager

Microsoft teams or Zoom

During this time, Gail is very happy to talk to your staff about their accounts via Microsoft Teams or ZOOM. This provides an opportunity for them to ask questions and be more familiar with their SPP account. If you would like to set up a lunch hour presentation please reach out to Gail. Some businesses can even give their employees CE (continuing education) credits for attending a presentation!



WELCOME TO THE WEALTHCARE REVOLUTION



There are many reasons a person will join your workplace, work hard for you, and be a success for your business. Benefits are the golden egg when it comes to retention.

A pension plan is an excellent retention tool that shows your employees you care about their future. Because SPP is locked in your employees will always know your business helped them in a journey to a better financial future.

Pension Plans are about "time" and SPP being locked in until age 55 protects your employee from taking funds out when markets are down. Investments need time to grow and you have helped your employees with a very important piece for their future. That's a lot to be proud of. Thank you!



SASKATOON OFFICE

Address

#206 Norplex Business Centre

Summer office hours

Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 - 4:30

Contact

Gail

Phone: 1-306-249-0048

Email: ggenest@saskpension.com

Ashley

Phone: 1-306-249-0047

Email: awiebe@saskpension.com



SASKATCHEWAN PENSION PLAN

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Publication mail agreement No - 40065736

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FAX 1-306-463-3500

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TELETYPE 1-888-213-1311

The SPP Contributions Newsletter is issued three times a year to provide members with general information about current issues affecting SPP. If any discrepancy arises between the information contained in this newsletter and the Act, the Act will prevail.