

Lighthouse Beacon

SPRING 2018

Spring Greetings!



Spring is here and with it brings longer days and a sense of renewal. I'm looking forward to dusting off the golf clubs and shooting hoops with my daughters.

It's been a busy time at Lighthouse Financial & IPC Investment Corporation. In *Bloom Where You are Planted*, we highlight the mission work trip I took to Honduras in January. February was RRSP season, March ushered in a week of holidays prior to Easter and in April I was able to reconnect with clients who live south of Edmonton during my bi-annual trip. This trip included celebrating my mother's 88th birthday. I also spent some time in the classroom, learning and obtaining some Continuing Education credits to maintain my industry designations.

My supervising firm, Investment Planning Counsel (IPC), was recently rated #1 among full service brokerage firms in a recent Credo Consulting Inc. Report Card on Client Satisfaction. This Report Card's criteria looked at establishing strong relationships with clients based on professionalism, trust, strong communication and other personality traits. 12,000 Canadians, who indicated they worked with an advisor, rated twenty brokerages, dealers and banks. It's great to be part of an organization and team of approximately 800 IPC advisors.

At Lighthouse Financial and IPC Investment Corporation, we are honored to serve 250 households. Thank you for your referrals of family and friends. Your confidence and trust are appreciated. Blessings!

Jim Hummel, CFP®, CKA®



Planner's Corner: Travel, Traffic and Construction Zones

Recently we've seen an increase in volatility in the stock markets which has impacted investors taking some risk to get a higher return. The positive news has included employment gains, wage increases, higher corporate earnings and for Alberta, higher oil prices. Offsetting the positive news are concerns over rising interest rates, trade negotiations such as NAFTA and US/China, other geo-political events, politicians, pipeline uncertainty and so on. How do we stay the course during volatile times?

Travel

Planning your financial future is like planning a trip.

Suppose you decide to drive across Canada to Charlottetown. You could just get in the car and start driving east and eventually end up in Charlottetown. However, if you had a map or Google maps, you would likely get there quicker and maybe even enjoy yourself. The same principle applies to your financial destination. A good financial road map should get you there faster with less stress and a greater probability of achieving your life-planning goals.



Traffic



Sticking to your financial plan is like driving during rush hour. Many of us have gotten stuck in traffic. You're in the right lane at a complete stop and it seems like the left lane is moving briskly. Your inclination is to switch

lanes but the moment we get there, the lane stops and the one we were in starts moving. By picking a lane and sticking with it, you will likely get to your destination with very little difference in time and a lot less stress. In addition, just like in traffic, if there is an accident or the lane ends, you will need to switch lanes. In investing this would involve reviewing your plans and rebalancing your portfolio at regular intervals. Aside from that, you should resist the temptation to switch.

Construction Zones

Road trips can often take you through construction zones and detours. You will need to endure stop and go traffic and drive on roads full of holes and gravel. Experienced road trippers have left room in their plans to wait out the stops and learn to endure the bumpy roads knowing they will eventually end. Inexperienced road-trippers may get frustrated and, trying to avoid the construction, leave the road to try out back roads that lead them off track and lost. Investing is like road-tripping – to get where you want to go you need to drive through some construction zones and persevere through some volatility.



Jim Hummel, CFP®, CKA®

**The concepts for this Planner's Corner were borrowed from an article I read about 15 years ago by Dan Richards, a well-known financial services speaker and writer.*



Like Lighthouse Financial / IPC Investment Corporation Facebook Page and Make a Difference!

It's not too late to 'like' Lighthouse Financial / IPC Investment Corporation's Facebook page. (www.facebook.com/LighthouseIPC). Until May 15, 2018, we'll donate \$1.00 to the Jasper Place Wellness Centre (jpwc.ca) an Edmonton-based, non-profit agency that cultivates wellness in our community by helping the poor in west Edmonton with housing, education, health, employment, and food. Currently, Lighthouse/IPC has 96 'followers'.

Bloom Where You are Planted



Jim's Honduras Mission Trip



From Jan 10 – 18, I was one of a group of ten that mixed concrete and helped build latrines and pila's (water storage) and developed relationships in Honduras. The trip was sponsored by West End Christian Reformed Church, Edmonton and supported by World Renew and Diaconia Nacional de Honduras.

Some reflections on the trip:

- At the Welcome Service, we sang the hymn *How Great Thou Art* with our group singing in English and the congregation singing in Spanish. Despite significant economic, social and cultural differences, it became real to me that we all worship the same God.



- As with most countries in Central America, political unrest is omnipresent. We left 2 days early due to anticipated civil unrest leading up to the inauguration of their new President. Anti-United States sentiment is prevalent.



- This being my first non-resort experience in a developing country, I am thankful that World Renew and Diaconia Nacional de Honduras provided translators, cooks and ensured we were kept safe. A portion of every meal had beans and tortillas. I even sampled an iguana which "tastes like chicken".

- Seat belts and life jackets are usually not available and are clearly optional.

- Cell phones are prevalent, but the family may not have a working bathroom.

- We worked alongside the homeowners and their families. Prior to our arrival, considerable effort was taken to dig a hole for the latrine mostly through rocks. It became apparent



that most Hondurans are not lazy and just need an opportunity and a means to support themselves and their families.



- I thought I was doing well carrying 1 bag of concrete weighing about 100 lbs until I saw a man almost half my size carrying 2 bags and wearing flip flops.

- We slept in an open-air classroom in a local school and were awoken by a neighing donkey and crowing roosters at 5 am in the morning. Reports have it that I snore like a fog horn, but why is that my wife has never complained?



- Honduras is beautiful. We worked in the southwest portion of Honduras on a tropical island called El Tigre or Tiger Island. It was not all work; we were able to swim in the Pacific Ocean most days. From the beach, we could see El Salvador and Nicaragua.



- A special shout out to leaders, **Bert Schouten** and **Steve Vriend** for organizing the trip and taking care of all the details.

