

Good ideas stay with you

Like catchy tunes, they play over and over in your head.



EDITORIAL

In August, *Canadian Investment Review* staged its annual Risk Management Conference in conjunction with University of Toronto's Joseph L. Rotman School of Management. Discussion at the conference quickly centred on "risks" in the entire system. Mike Brooks, head of investment risk for Baillie Gifford in the United Kingdom, told the conference that, in his view, "within three years DB plans in the U.K. will stop taking new members."

Three weeks after the conference, that comment has stayed with me. It crystallizes the perils faced by the workplace-based retirement system in Canada today.

In the September 2005 issue of *Benefits Canada*, CIR's sister publication, in an excellent report on the future of DB plans in Canada, Keith Ambachtsheer writes another one of those phrases that stick. Keith asks the question, "Do we see our workplace-based pension system as a national asset?"

A national asset? Never before have I heard the pension system referred to as a national asset. But it's true. It is a national asset. It provides Canada a unique advantage when competing with countries that don't have as well-defined a system. It provides millions of Canadians the opportunity to have a dignified retirement.

Is it effective? According to a 2000 study on retire-

ment income by Statistics Canada, 71% of all family units in Canada had some form of pension assets. For retirees, 29% of income was dependent on private pensions, up from 18% in 1990. Of all retirees, 55% received pension income, up from 38% in 1990.

You can argue this is old research (Stats Canada hasn't updated this survey). And you can argue that only 28% of private workers have pension coverage and 3.5 million family units are without any pension assets at all.

It's not perfect. And it needs expanding to cover the millions of Canadians without coverage. But maybe we need to start referring to it more often as a national asset—a national asset that needs care and attention from all levels of government, business and society. Or we may be faced with a situation similar to that described by Mike Brooks.

Paul Williams, Publisher

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Are you interested in having your work appear in *Canadian Investment Review*? Full submission guidelines are available online at www.investmentreview.com, under the heading "Submit an Article."

Canadian Investment Review

Don Bisch, Interim Editor
(416) 764-3867
don.bisch@rci.rogers.com
Elaine Fenech, Art Director

Paul Williams, Publisher & Vice-President
(416) 764-3848

Dale King, Associate Publisher
(416) 764-3915

Karee Lang, National Account Manager
(416) 764-3827

Joy McLaughlin, Account Manager
(416) 764-3866

Jillian Dann, Account Manager
(416) 764-3808

Suzanne Farago, Account Manager,
Quebec/Eastern Canada
(514) 843-2964

Jennifer Molleson, Production Manager
(416) 764-3928

Melissa Horwood, Conference and Promotion Planner
(416) 764-3865

Leigh Doyle, Assistant Editor, Conferences
(416) 764-3834

Tricia Benn, Director of Research
(416) 764-3856

Cindy Younan, Circulation Manager
(416) 764-1443

Published by Rogers Publishing Limited,
a division of Rogers Media Inc.



Rogers Media Inc., President and CEO,
Anthony P. Viner

Rogers Publishing Limited
President and CEO, Brian Segal
Senior Vice-President, Healthcare & Financial
Services Group, John Milne
Senior Vice-Presidents: Harvey Botting,
Marc Blondeau, Michael Fox,

Vice-Presidents: Immee Chee Wah, Larry Michielli

Vice-President, Healthcare and Financial Publishing:
Paul Williams

ADVISORY BOARD

Chair—Paul Halpern
University of Toronto
Keith P. Ambachtsheer
KPA Advisory Services

George Athanassakos
University of Western Ontario

Michael Durland
Scotia Capital

Jamie Colliver
Integra Capital Management

Stephen Foerster
University of Western Ontario

Rob Heinkel
University of British Columbia

Michael Keenan
Bimcor Inc.

Eric Kitzner
University of Toronto

Lawrence Kryzanowski
Concordia University

Tristram Lett
Reef Knot Financial Ltd.

Harry Marmer
Franklin Templeton

Marlene Puffer
Twist Financial Corp.

Terri Troy
Royal Bank of Canada

Canadian Investment Review, established in 1988, is published four times per year by Rogers Publishing Limited, a division of Rogers Media Inc. Rogers Publishing Limited, One Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2Y5. Telephone: 416-764-2000, fax 416-764-3934. Montreal Office: 1200 Avenue McGill College, Bureau 800, Montreal, Quebec, H3B 4G7.

Subscriber Services, Phone: Toronto 416-932-5071; Outside Toronto 1-866-236-0608, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST weekdays, Fax: 416-932-1620. Mail: Canadian Investment Review, Circulation Dept., P.O. Box 720, STN K, Toronto, Ontario M4P 3J6. Email: customerservice@stonecanada.com. Single Copy & Directory Sales: Bebe Jardine 416-764-3858. Email: bebe.jardine@rci.rogers.com. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST weekdays, Fax: 416-764-3937. Mail: Canadian Investment Review, Circulation Dept., One Mount Pleasant Road, 7th Floor, Toronto, ON M4Y 2Y5. Subscription Price per year: \$75.50 CDN; Outside Canada per year: \$139.35 US; Single copy price: \$32.00 CDN. Printed in Canada.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40070230
Return undeliverable address blocks to: *Canadian Investment Review* Circulation Dept., P.O. Box 720 Stn. K, Toronto, ON M4P 3J6. Phone: Toronto 416-932-5071; Outside Toronto 1-866-236-0608. CIR receives unsolicited materials (including letters to the editor, press releases, promotional items and images) from time to time. *Canadian Investment Review*, its affiliates and assignees may use, reproduce, publish, re-publish, distribute, store and archive such unsolicited submissions in whole or in part in any form or medium whatsoever, without compensation of any sort. Contents copyright © 2005 by Rogers Publishing Limited, may not be reprinted without permission.