

# FAMILY FORWARD

## Planning for Retirement (While Living for Today)

Families are running a mile a minute and sometimes it's a high-five moment just to make it through the day. With time at a minimum and multiple financial priorities vying for your attention, don't underestimate the importance of contributing to your retirement during these busy years.

### 1. Start with Understanding your Expenses

While it may seem that all of your funds are allocated to daily expenses including the mortgage or rent payment, take a moment to understand where you are spending your money and how some of those funds may be dedicated to your future. First, review your payments and spending over the past three months to understand exactly where your money is going. Next, [build a basic budget](#) that shows these expenses related to your income. Finally, make choices that allow you to put away even a small amount each month, dedicated to your future.

### 2. Make it a Family Affair

Smart money choices can start at any age, and the earlier the better! Get the kids involved by teaching them the value of money. Comparing prices at the grocery store, setting up separate piggy banks for saving and spending, and sharing your thoughts on what is a need vs a want are all important elements of financial literacy and money skills for life.



604.740.2662



[inquiries@sunshineccu.net](mailto:inquiries@sunshineccu.net)



[www.sunshineccu.com](http://www.sunshineccu.com)



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### 3. Begin Today!

It's arguably the most important retirement savings tip – start early. Compound interest over the years will optimize your contributions so time is definitely a critical part of your retirement strategy. When do you plan on retiring and how much do you think you will need to maintain the lifestyle you want? Use a [Retirement Calculator](#) to assess how much you will need to put aside today for the future you are building for tomorrow. Set up pre-authorized contributions so that the process is seamless and automated. Doing so means you won't forget to contribute, or make impulse buying decisions instead.

### 4. Build an Emergency Savings Account

While saving for your future is important, so too is being able to meet your financial obligations today if you are ever faced with an unforeseen event such as a job loss or illness. If you don't already have an emergency fund, you may want to consider splitting the funds you are saving into two categories: Emergency Fund and Retirement Savings. Once you meet your Emergency Savings goal (three to six months' worth of expenses is recommended), you can reallocate all funds to your Retirement Savings goal.

### 5. Choose Tools that Work For You

There are many different types of investment tools to support your retirement savings such as a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP), Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA), Term Deposits, and market investments. Choosing the one(s) that make the most sense for your unique needs is an important consideration. Talk to a financial professional to learn more about these options and which ones may be right for you.

This information is made available to you for convenience and is not intended to provide investment, legal or tax advice. We do not guarantee the applicability or accuracy. To ensure your own circumstances have been considered, seek personalized advice from qualified professionals before acting on the information within.



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