Public Employees Pension Plan
1000 - 1801 Hamilton Street
REGINA SK   S4P 4W3

MARKET VOLATILITY AND YOUR PENSION

Feeling uneasy about the markets recently? You're not alone. Over the last month or so, the markets have seen a lot of ups and downs – somewhat related to the Corona Virus or COVID-19 as it is currently labelled. While most investment experts tell us to relax and stay the course, it's easier said than done.

Behavioral economics tells us that investors often revert to making emotional decisions, rather than rational ones, during times of stress. This is dangerous because our attitude toward risk often depends on our emotional state.

Here's a few tips that will may help guide you during this period of market volatility:

Look at the big picture – Instead of reacting to what has already happened, try to focus on the future. Keep the market condition in perspective and remember saving for retirement is a long-term goal.

Focus on the long term - While it's hard to focus on the long term when markets are down, recall why you originally selected your investment option. Investments fluctuate on a day-to-day basis. But, the longer you stay in the market, the less the fluctuation affects the overall performance of your fund.

Diversify – PEPP looks after this for you. All of PEPP's asset allocation funds are invested in a well-diversified portfolio of asset classes and investment managers. Diversification reduces the overall risk of your asset allocation fund because the positive performance of some investments off-sets the negative performance of others.

Understand your investor profile - We all have different retirement goals and different time frames for achieving them. Complete the *My PEPP Investor Profile* – it measures your tolerance for risk and analyzes your investment style to see what type of investor you are.

Look before you leap – Making hasty changes to your investment decisions based on short-term market fluctuations can have long-term consequences. If you are considering changing your PEPP investment option, review your investment strategy and Investor Profile.

Talk to one of our professional Certified Financial Planners® – Always feel free to call PEPP at 1-877-275-7377 with any questions, or to make an appointment with one of our Retirement Information Consultants who are also Certified Financial Planners®. They can review your investment portfolio with you and provide you with investment information that can help you make good informed decisions about your retirement planning.

If you have questions about COVID-19, we encourage you to visit the page dedicated to this on the Government of Saskatchewan website at: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus