

The Affinity Connection

Winter 2009

2010 Elections

Affinity Credit Union will be holding elections for your District Council Delegates in 2010.

District Council Delegates play a significant role in the governance of the credit union and represent your voice in your community. Enjoy the privileges of membership and exercise your right to: nominate a candidate, run for election and vote!

The nomination period runs from January 9th to January 25th and the voting period runs from February 10th to February 22nd. Look out for the posters in Branches and information on our website.

Election results will be declared at our Annual General Meeting on March 31st, 2010 and information evenings hosted in some Districts.

Thank you for your participation in the democratic process of our Credit Union!

Young Talent



We are currently recruiting energetic, fresh faces!
Run for Affinity Credit Union Council.

- Make a difference in your community
- Help run your Credit Union
- Gain board governance experience

We want to chat with you.

www.affinitycu.ca

Be Part of Our Success!

Call Linda Moulin, Senior VP of Corporate Development
at 934.4081 or
email youngtalent@affinitycu.ca



Supporting Our Communities

Affinity Credit Union commits at least 3% of its annual pre-tax, pre-patronage profits to community support each year. Here's just a small sample of what we have donated to local communities:

Healthy Communities: \$20,528

Our staff are involved with various organizations that are helping people in our communities who face difficult health issues. Staff across the province held various fundraising activities in their district and entered a team in the Relay for Life event and raised over \$10,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Affinity also provided \$5,000 in corporate sponsorship to the Plywood Cup in Regina and entered a team in the race which raised a further \$5,528. The Plywood Cup supports the Regina Hospital Foundation and Raise-a-Reader initiative.



Environment: \$10,500

To underline our commitment to creating a healthier environment, Affinity Credit Union was a platinum sponsor and contributed to \$10,500 to the Watrous Walking Trail.



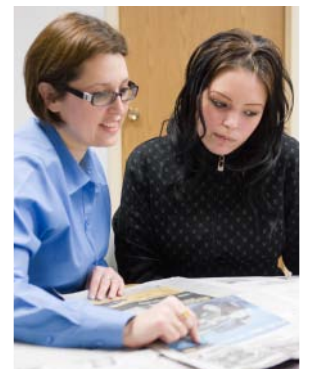
Invest in Your Future With an RRSP

You may be considering investing in a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) to mark the beginning of the New Year. Or perhaps saving for your retirement is an ongoing financial goal.

No matter what the reason, investing in your future could mean the difference between enjoying your well-deserved retirement or eeking out a living. March 1, 2009 is the deadline for contributing to an RRSP for the 2010 tax year, so start examining your options now.

Education: \$10,000

Affinity Credit Union supports Adult literacy and partners with READ Saskatoon to help ensure funding is available for their valued programs. This year, we provided \$10,000 in Community Development Funding, sponsorship and ongoing staff involvement.



To see what we have funded in your community this year, click [here](#).

Can I afford an RRSP?

Lois Freeman, an Affinity Credit Union Financial Planner in Shellbrook says:

“Even though most of us can’t afford to contribute large amounts to their RRSP at the end of the tax year, almost everyone can set up a savings plan that deducts a monthly or biweekly amount from their pay-cheque or bank account. Even by starting with a small monthly contribution, investing in an RRSP now will help ensure you’ll have a more comfortable retirement later.”



Why invest in an RRSP?

- Your contributions are tax deductible and could provide you with a tax refund.
- Investments in an RRSP grow tax-free. Consider making your RRSP contribution earlier in the year or even on a monthly basis. By contributing sooner rather than later, your money will have more time to grow tax-free.
- Earnings on RRSP investments aren’t taxed until withdrawn.

Following the rules

- You can invest 18 percent of your earned income, up to a maximum of \$21,000 to an RRSP for the 2009 tax year.
- Unused contributions can be carried forward for an unlimited period. If you come into an unexpected windfall, you might consider using some of it to maximize your RRSP contribution or make up for missed contributions from previous years.
- Wise investors use their tax refund to top up their RRSP or pay down their RRSP loan if they borrowed to make their RRSP contribution.
- Arrange a savings plan as soon as possible. By withholding source deductions and transferring amounts to a group plan, you get the benefit of the RRSP tax deferral right away instead of having to wait until tax time for a refund. If you don’t have a group plan at work, you can still make contributions before income tax is levied on your earnings. Talk to your financial advisor.

“Taking care of yourself in retirement is something only you can do and it’s never too late to start,” added Lois.

To discuss your RRSP options, contact:

**Lois Freeman, Financial Planner
Shellbrook: 306.747.6305**

Or drop into any [branch](#) of Affinity Credit Union near you.



Last Minute RRSP Tips

The deadline for making contributions to your RRSP is March 1, 2010. As long as you make your contribution by that date, you can deduct your investment from last year's earned income and possibly get a hefty tax refund.

If you've waited until the last minute to get this sorted out and now feel a bit panicky, Alex Murphy, an Affinity Credit Union Investment Specialist in Saskatoon, offers three key RRSP tips to get you back on track.

1. Dig out your Notice of Assessment from Revenue Canada. It tells you how much you can contribute to an RRSP. If you can't find the Assessment, call Revenue Canada (1-800-959-8281).
2. If the amount you are allowed to contribute is more than you have on hand, consider a loan. The interest you pay on RRSP loans is usually less than the amount you can earn on your investment.
3. Ask your investment specialist advisor to set you up on a monthly contribution plan to an RRSP so you won't have to go through all this again next year.



Alex Murphy
Investment Specialist
Saskatoon
306.657.6802

Service and commitment
... close to home!

Contact us today!

www.affinitycu.ca

Teleservice

Saskatoon: 934.4000

Toll Free: 1.866.863.6237

Call for a *FREE* guide!

Savings: - Tax-Free Savings Accounts
- Planning for the Future (RESP & Education)

Retirement: - Understanding All the Basics of RRSPs, RRIF, LIF, LRIF, Annuity
- Knowing your Retirement Options

