Take a Good, Close Look At Your Future

If it has been several years since you've given much thought to what your retirement might be like, this may be a good time to revisit your life's roadmap. The goals you once envisioned for your future may have changed, and new opportunities may have sprung up.

The clearer your vision of your retirement lifestyle, the better able you'll be to make realistic financial plans to achieve what you want.

Here are three questions to consider:

1. When do you want to stop working?

Since mandatory retirement is a thing of the past in most Canadian jurisdictions, you can now choose when to retire — whether sooner or later. And longer life spans mean that many people are enjoying longer retirement years.

2. Where will you live?

There are more options than ever before. You may want to live in a retirement resort, move to a condo, winterize a vacation property, or modify your current home. The range of long-term care and home health-care options has also expanded tremendously.

3. How active do you plan to be?

Perhaps you plan to spend more time travelling or pursuing a favourite activity such as golfing, skiing, or sailing. Then again, a recent change in your health, family status, or interests may mean you're rethinking those ideas.

When you have a good picture of how you want to live in your retirement, you can adjust your investment and savings plans to accurately meet these expectations. Professional advice can help you fine-tune your retirement strategy to meet your vision.

