

1. **How did you do last year?**
2. **Cancer now leading cause of death**
3. **E cigarette users are smokers**
4. **Out of Province travel insurance really means it**

1. **Ontario Teachers Pension plan the benchmark**

So for the calendar year 2013 Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan had a return of 10.9% beating their benchmark by 1.6%. Their best performing asset class was equities with a return of 27%. While they have sizeable dollar investments in infrastructure and Private Equity the actual portfolio percentage is under 8%. They did have a cash holding of 24%. Yes, Loretta is a teacher and has a vested interest. But it is one of the premier funds in Ontario and I like to see how my clients results compare. For the most part they out performed them last year and over the last 3 years.

2. **Cancer eclipses cardio vascular disease**

Manulife released a report of a breakdown on death claims over a 4 year period ended 2010. This reflected the recent Stats Can report showing cancer deaths were now the leading cause of death in Canada. Actually, it's not even close with cardio vascular disease a distant second. The scary part is few cancers kill you right away rather it is a prolonged battle. Better make sure your planning has some consideration of this fact going forward. If you need help let me know.

3. **Insurers consider it a different way to get nicotine**

So E cigarettes don't contain tobacco instead they heat up nicotine which smokers inhale and exhale. Apparently illegal in Canada but in Toronto a Vapour Bar has just opened on Yonge St. Well, Canadian insurers have said as there is nicotine in the device, users will not be considered non-smokers for insurance purposes. I've had a couple who use these devices and while I applaud them getting away from tobacco it's not realistic to think they are now lower risks.

4. **They really mean out of Province**

I read an article the other day about the reason to have Out of Province Travel Medical insurance when travelling outside Ontario. For example ambulance costs vary and a ride in Vancouver may not be the same as Waterloo. Yes, you guessed it, you're on the hook for the difference not OHIP. Actually, the article pointed out more the likely scenario is they'll put you on a plane as soon as possible and send you back to Ontario. Without travel medical insurance the emergency medical flight is for your account costing thousands. Something to think about next time you visit Saskatchewan! Good news there is a 50% discount from travel carriers like Manulife for travel in Canada.

Cheers.

Earle

PS If you get more email than you can ever read & I'm adding to the glut, drop me a note and I'll remove you from my mailing list.

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