The BMO Wealth Institute provides insights and strategies around wealth planning and financial decisions to better prepare for a confident financial future. The Institute’s reports include all aspects of wealth planning including retirement, estate, tax and insurance.

**Financial planning**

**Getting ahead – the financial challenges for Generations X and Y**

Similar to the baby boom generation, members of Generations X & Y have financial priorities that include home ownership, funding college education and saving and investing for retirement. For many in this generation, the implementation of the financial components necessary to achieve personal goals falls short. Achieving these goals requires a different approach to developing and implementing a financial plan that resonates with Generations X and Y.

**Life events that may derail a financial plan**

One of the biggest mistakes individuals make is having a financial strategy that only meets their planned goals. The most significant derailments to a financial plan are the death or disability of a spouse or family member and divorce, particularly later in life. While the financial situation caused by derailments can be very hard, there are ways that families can plan for and insulate themselves from the worst of the financial impact.

**The bank of Mom and Dad**

Many parents feel they are on track to being financially comfortable, but still worry that their children are not going to attain that same level of comfort with just their own resources. Discussions concerning expectations and responsibilities are critical to the financial success for both parents and their children. A comprehensive wealth plan is necessary for achieving financial independence.

**The life of an entrepreneur**

It is important for entrepreneurs to identify and address issues such as their income options, minimizing taxes, insurance needs, minimizing risks, tax-advantaged savings plans, investment management, credit management and succession needs. By working with financial professionals, entrepreneurs can receive guidance that is tailored to their individual and business needs to help them achieve a financially stronger future.

**Top 5 mistakes parents make saving for their child’s education**

With so many competing financial priorities, accumulating a child’s education savings without jeopardizing one’s retirement savings may be difficult. Saving for a child’s education requires careful consideration and planning. One can begin to take proactive steps through savings and budgeting that maximizes all strategies available.

**Understanding disability – planning for financial well-being**

Disability can be financially catastrophic for an individual and their family. Fortunately there are a large number of programs and services available to help. Areas where help will be most beneficial include tax deductions, social benefits, financial support, and assistance with day-to-day living. Proactive planning and professional advice can help provide greater peace of mind.

**Who will be your caregiver?**

As the population of the United States ages, the demands placed on the health care system and the need for long-term care options continue to rise. As a wave of baby boomers retire, the question of whether they are adequately preparing for future health and long-term care costs will need to be answered. The potential costs of long-term care can be built into a personalized financial plan to see if these costs can be sustained.

**Your personal net worth statement**

It can be challenging to manage all aspects of one’s personal net worth statement, including balancing saving, investing, borrowing and spending activities over a lifetime. Often competing financial pressures mean making difficult choices. By working with an investment professional it is possible to make good financial decisions and adapt when necessary to help better achieve financial goals.
Estate planning

Estate planning in the 21st century
Estate planning is often focused around the more traditional aspects, such as leaving possessions or money to children. However, Boomers are embracing new technologies at unprecedented rates and individuals are living longer than ever before. These changes may increase the risk of overlooking important aspects during the estate planning process. The Institute takes a closer look at these trends and suggests ways in which individuals can adapt their estate plans to reflect these new realities.

The family conversation you should not avoid
Traditionally, estate planning has focused on estate administration and tax considerations and having the proper legal documents in place. It is now understood that the emotional impact on those left behind calls for the concept of enhanced estate planning. Enhanced estate planning requires having the difficult conversations necessary to share the reasoning behind the estate decisions that have been made that one’s heirs will have to implement.

Estate planning for complex family dynamics
Today the modern family comes in many shapes and sizes, and these differences are impacting the dynamics of how families address estate planning. The ability to have open conversations about inheritance expectations, the perceived fairness of such arrangements, and care issues around daily assistance living as families age, are essential to achieving your planning goal. Working with a financial professional that can guide you through the process will give comfort and peace of mind as you walk through estate planning for the unique needs of your family.

Retirement

The four keys to longevity
For most people, planning for retirement or their later years is focused mostly on finances and how they will spend their time. However, ensuring they spend those years in good health is something that many overlook. The times are changing, with medical advances and technological breakthroughs, planning for retirement and living longer needs to be more holistic. The report focuses on four areas that impact longevity: body, mind, social and financial status.

What’s your retirement game plan?
Retirement is not an everlasting vacation, and preparing for the next chapter in life requires both a game plan and resources to find the solutions that work. The people most successful in transitioning into retirement are those who give thought to the question ‘What will I do after leaving work?’ because planning in advance makes this transition easier. Working with a financial professional and creating financial goals brings peace of mind during the transition.

As a business owner, do you have a retirement contingency plan?
Retiring from a business can be difficult for business owners, after investing so much time, effort, and money to build a successful business. For many business owners, a retirement date is not always within their control, and the funds available for retirement can vary greatly. Working with financial professionals who understand the needs and challenges of private business owners can help make the plans necessary for both the business and personal situation in order to achieve a financially stronger retirement.

Women

Financial concerns of women
Women are now the primary breadwinners in over 40% of U.S. households and control 51% of U.S. personal wealth. Despite the professional and financial successes that women in the workplace have earned in recent generations, they are still facing many personal issues and unresolved challenges. The Institute explores the financial costs to women as the primary caregiver and the importance of financial planning to ease the concerns women face.

At BMO Global Asset Management, we believe better conversations result in better outcomes. We enhance your client conversations by providing you with ideas, access and ease.

Visit bmogamviewpoints.com/advisor to access a library of ideas in the BMO Wealth Institute reports