

FACTcheck

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Eighty-four per cent of Canadian employees with a workplace retirement savings plan say they should have a say in how plan assets are invested.

Males are slightly less satisfied than females with their employee retirement plans and 49% say they **would consider leaving their current employer** for one who offers the same salary and a better employee retirement plan. Female response: 46%

Percentage of Canadians who plan to retire before age 55: **9%**. The percentage that plan to retire after age 65: **27%**. Those planning to retire between ages 55 and 64: **58%**

Sixty-eight per cent of employees aged 18-34 **have confidence their employee retirement savings plan will meet their needs**. Sixty-three per cent of employees over the age of 55 feel the same way.

76%: Share of Canadian full-time employees who **say they are aware that different pharmacies charge varying amounts to dispense the same drug**. Percentage who do not consider the amount that the pharmacy charges to dispense the drug: **57%**

While **42%** of companies offer financial education seminars to 18-34 year olds, **55%** of firms organize seminars for employees 55 and over.

Fifty-six per cent of **private sector employees would invest with the providers of their retirement savings plan outside the employee plan** compared with 50% of those in the public sector.

Fifty-two per cent of private sector employees have attended financial education seminars when presented with the opportunity compared to only 36% in the public sector.

Thirty-one per cent of younger respondents **valued their health benefit plans at \$500 to \$1000**; 22% per cent of middle age respondents **valued their plans at \$1000 to \$2000**.

But 75% of younger respondents "would appreciate it if their employer took a more active role in keeping them in good health" versus 72% for older respondents.

For the purpose of a health benefits assessment, percentage of health plan members willing to share the following pieces of personal information with their employer: **Family medical history: 66%. Previous illness: 65%. Cholesterol count: 66%.**

Data provided by Environics' "Pulse on Plan Members" survey conducted for BENEFITS CANADA in 2003 and sponsored by Aon Consulting, Maritime Life, Great-West Life and Canada Life. For more detailed coverage of the survey, see pages 28-61.