

Birth of a New Tradition – Shop the Pontiac!

As the holidays approach, it is time to think about shopping locally in the Pontiac. This year give the gift of genuine concern for other Canadians, especially those in the Pontiac. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that comes from the Pontiac. **Yes there is!** It's time to think outside the box. Who says a gift needs to fit in a box?

Everyone gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local hair salon or barber? Gym membership or health services? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about health improvement.

There are many other ideas – perhaps your grateful gift receiver would like their driveway sealed, lawn mowed for the summer or driveway ploughed all winter. Many people could use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle. Maybe they are thinking of converting to solar or wind power – we have a supplier in the Pontiac!

The Pontiac has many tourist attractions which us Pontiacers have not had a chance to check out. Give someone a gift certificate for a dogsled ride, rafting trip, zipline adventure, games at a Pontiac golf course and many other ideas to support our local tourist businesses.

Everyone loves a nice meal out – there are many owner-run restaurants in the Pontiac – all offering gift certificates.

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning person for a day.

Maybe a friend or family member could use a tune-up for their computer. Or they might be planning a renovation so a gift certificate from a local building supply business would be very appreciated.

If you are looking for something personal – there are many artisans in the Pontiac. Wonderful one-of-a-kind gifts for someone special. The many local crafts people knit, make jewelry, pottery, photography, painting and many other creative items.

Remember folks, this is about supporting your local business people with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

And shopping locally is less stressful – avoiding the packed parking lots, crowded malls and long lineups at the checkout. You will meet neighbours who are out shopping, have a chance for a chat and maybe share a cup of coffee together.

Christmas is about caring for us, encouraging Canadian small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about Pontiac businesses, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine.

Visit the on-line business directory to search for Pontiac businesses at:

www.commerepontiac.ca

Search for products and services available right here in the Pontiac.

SHOP LOCAL – The job you save might be your own.

Making sense of the CPP changes

TAMMY BURNS
NOVEMBER 09, 2011

Under the current Canada Pension Plan (CPP) rules, employees and employers are not required to pay CPP contributions for employees who are working while collecting CPP. However, effective Jan. 1, 2012, if an employee is under age 65 and continues to work while receiving CPP, both the employer and employee will be required to make CPP contributions. For working employees between the ages of 65 and 70, contribution by the employee becomes voluntary; however, should an employee opt to contribute to CPP, his or her employer will also have to make CPP contributions.

These and other changes to the CPP are being carried out in phases, beginning in 2011 and ending in 2016. Dave Ablett, director of tax and estate planning with Investors Group, discusses what the recent and coming changes mean for employees and employers.

Encouraged to delay

Under the new CPP rules, employees who receive CPP before age 65 will see a reduction in benefits, whereas those who postpone receipt until after age 65—but no later than age 70—will see an increase in the benefit.

“It’s clearly an attempt to encourage individuals to postpone receipt of CPP benefits as soon as possible,” explains Ablett. “Currently, about 65% of all participants in CPP took those benefits before age 65. And only about 4% of those individuals actually postpone receiving CPP. People are not prevented from taking their benefits before age 65, but there will now be a higher penalty to do so.”

Under the old rules, the reduction
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rate was equal to half a percentage point for every month between the start of CPP benefits and age 65, which means someone who decides to receive CPP at 60 would have a reduction of 30%. Starting in 2012, that monthly reduction increases to 0.52%.

“So, for somebody who retires in 2012 at age 60, the reduction in their benefit will be 32.1%,” says Ablett. “They’re gradually phasing in these increase reductions so that by 2016, the full reduction for a 60-year-old will be 36%.”

However, the phase-in for postponed retirement premiums is much faster. Under the old rules, the premium increased by 0.5% for each month after age 65 (up to age 70) that contributors delayed receiving CPP. Under the new rules, the monthly increase was raised to 0.57% in 2011 and will go up to 0.64% in 2012 and 0.7% in 2013.

Elimination of work cessation test

Currently, employees who are between the ages of 60 and 65 and want to receive CPP have to complete a work cessation test.

“To be eligible to receive CPP, either you have to stop working or, for two consecutive months, your earnings have to be less than the maximum monthly CPP benefit, which is \$960 per month,” says Ablett. “But as of 2012, the work cessation test is being eliminated, so there doesn’t have to be any interruption in the person’s earnings in order to start receiving CPP.”

Low earnings dropout provision

Currently, individuals who have a period of unemployment—perhaps they’ve gone back to school or been out of the workforce for a few years—are entitled to the “low earnings dropout” provision. This provision allows for the lowest

Chamber Events

General Member Meeting

Wednesday, December 7 – 6:30 pm
Chez Sonia – Portage-du-Fort
Information on upcoming Chamber events, introduction of Business Development Coordinator and quarterly financial report.

Business Events

Monthly SADC Business Breakfast First Wednesday of the month

7:30 am
SADC Office – Campbell’s Bay

Salon Accès Emploi 2012 March 16

More information to come.
Business kiosks available.

If you have a business or Pontiac event you would like advertised, please contact the chamber.

15% of earnings to be dropped out of the calculation for CPP.

Starting in 2012, the dropout period will be raised to 16%, and in 2014, it will be increased to 17%.

Accrual of additional benefits

“The change that will be the most significant is that for the first time under the Canada Pension Plan, an individual who is receiving CPP retirement benefits will be able to accrue additional benefits,” says Ablett.

These additional benefits are post-retirement benefits, earned by those who are under age 65 and are continuing to work while receiving—and contributing to—CPP. These benefits rise with increases in the cost of living, even if the individual is already drawing the maximum pension from CPP.

“Where this might have some interest is for individuals who were out of the workforce or had low earnings for a long period of time

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Thank You to our Sponsors – Thank You to our Bidders

The silent auction held during the Chamber Holiday Party was a great success. Twenty-one businesses from the Pontiac donated various products and services for the auction resulting in a donation to the Chamber of over \$1700 dollars. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the huge success of the event.

Boutique Gwendoline
Bristol Hops
Campbell's Bay Cement
Clinique Chiropratique du Pontiac
Clinique d'auto Duquette
Ferme Lavender Ridge
Fresh Image

GELAM
Imprimerie Plus
Jericom
Lloyd Hodgins Furniture Inc
Log's End Inc.
Ottawa Valley Fuels
Petro Pontiac

Pontiac Printshop
Pure Life Adventures
Ringrose Funeral Home
Shawville Shoes
Spruceholme
Studio 332
Tom Orr Cartage

Making sense of the CPP changes (continued from page 2)

or came to Canada relatively late in life," says Ablett. "This will, in effect, enable them to supplement their CPP benefits by working longer."

Choice and the crossover point

People have always had to make the decision whether to take CPP at age 60 or postpone taking it until age 65. That choice still exists under the new rules, but what complicates matters is that if they continue to work, they will continue to contribute to CPP and earn additional benefits, says Ablett.

To help make the decision of when to start taking CPP, Ablett recommends employees consider the crossover, or break-even, point.

"That's the date at which, if you started to take the larger payments later on, at what age would those cumulative benefits be equal to the lower benefits that started at an earlier date?"

For example, take somebody who is at age 60 and decides to stop working entirely. According to Investors Group's research, under the current rules, if that individual decided to receive his or her CPP at 60 as opposed to 65, and if that individual does not reinvest the CPP money that he or she gets, the crossover point is calculated as being at age 75. "So, you would have to live to be at least 75 for the

decision to delay CPP to 65 to be the better decision," says Ablett.

"When you postpone CPP, you are taking a risk," he continues. "And so, individuals in that situation should be considering their own health and life expectancy."

Under the new provisions, given the higher penalty for taking the CPP benefit at age 60, the crossover point moves down, to age 73. "In effect, they're saying there's a higher penalty for receiving your money earlier," says Ablett. "So, it's now—relatively speaking—more attractive to postpone. But again, the [person] has to say, 'What are the chances of me living to be at least age 73?'"

Investors Group also calculated the crossover for an individual who wants to receive CPP at age 60 or 65, but continues to work. "The crossover point in that situation under the new provisions is 75," says Ablett. "So, if you live to be at least 75, the better decision would be to start receiving CPP at 65 as opposed to age 60."

Visit the Service Canada website for a summary of changes to CPP.

Originally published on [benefitscanada.com](http://www.benefitscanada.com)

<http://www.benefitscanada.com/pensions/governance-law/making-sense-of-the-cpp-changes-22621>

Exposure for your Business

Support the Chamber through an enhanced membership and receive benefits for your business.

At the last AGM, members approved two additional tiers of membership.

2nd Tier – \$250: small size advertisement on chamber web site; logo at the bottom of the monthly newsletter; logo on Sponsor board displayed at all Quarterly General Meetings of the Chamber.

3rd Tier – \$500: larger size advertisement on chamber web site; logo at the bottom of the monthly newsletter; prominent logo on Sponsor board displayed at all Quarterly General Meetings of the Chamber; chance of have a display/booth at all Quarterly General Meetings of the Chamber.

If you are interested in taking advantage of these enhanced memberships, please contact the Chamber for more information.



Sign up a Non-Member to the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce Chamber – and receive a benefit for yourself!

We all know of other Pontiac businesses who could benefit from being a Chamber member. The Chamber feels the best person to contact these businesses to encourage them to join the Chamber would be another Chamber member. You know the benefits – both to your own business and to business in the Pontiac.

As a thank you, if you refer a non-member to the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce and they join for the current membership year, you will receive a \$25 refund towards your own membership renewal with the Chamber the following year!

Member Business Profiles on the Chamber Web Site

The Chamber would like to spotlight your business on the web site. If you would like to have the 'spotlight' on your business, please send a write-up of 250 to 500 words with a photo of you and/or your business. You can submit it in either English or French, we will provide the translation required. The chamber would like to have a different member business profiled each month. **We need your assistance to complete this goal.**

Send your profile to info@pontiacchamberofcommerce.ca

The referral does not apply to existing Chamber members or those who have previously been members. The maximum for refunds will be 4 referrals per member for each membership year. **Just make sure to mark your own name and business at the bottom of their membership form.**

If you would like a membership form to pass along, please visit the Chamber web site at www.pontiacchamberofcommerce.ca or just ask and we will send copies to you.

Season's Greetings!



Welcome to the Chamber!

Check the chamber web site for links to all Chamber businesses.

Support your local businesses!



News, article suggestions and letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. Content will be edited to fit the space available. We welcome press releases and news from our local business community to be published free of charge.

Chamber Benefits

Being a member of the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce means that you are also affiliated with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) — www.chamber.ca and the Quebec Chamber of Commerce (FCCQ) — www.fccq.ca. You and your business can take advantage of benefits listed on their web sites.



Think Global ...

Buy Local

Would Like to Join the Chamber?

Membership fee of \$100 entitles you to all chamber benefits. Membership valid from April 1st to March 31st.

Contact info:

The Pontiac Chamber of Commerce
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Campbell's Bay, Quebec, J0X 1K0
1-866-861-0509 or 819-648-5174
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info@pontiacchamberofcommerce.ca

If you received this newsletter via regular mail and would like to receive it via email, please let us know a valid email address. We do not share our lists.

Think Global ... Buy Local
Support Those Who Support You
Small Businesses Make Small Towns Work!
Consider this when you're buying ...
As business operators, our actions shape our communities.