Insights & Advice

2025-2026
FALL/WINTER EDITION

Guidance
for where you want to go

SCU

Message from the CEO

As I write to you in my second newsletter message I want to begin with gratitude. Thank you for the warm welcome I've received since stepping into this role earlier this year. Over the past several months, I've had the privilege of meeting many members, hearing your stories, and seeing firsthand the strength of our communities when we come together for a common cause. It's clear to me that SCU's greatest assets are not only its financial stability, but the people who make up the membership.

Since the start of 2025, the world has shifted in ways that touch us all. Global politics, trade discussions, and housing availability aren't just distant headlines, they affect our daily lives here at home. In addition, the Bank of Canada has lowered interest rates, which brings both challenges and opportunities for our members.

For savers, lower interest rates can make it harder to see growth in traditional savings products.

Thankfully for our savers, SCU has not reduced our high interest savings rates with all the Bank of Canada reductions – so you are earning more. In addition, many members are exploring SCU Wealth to go beyond savings products and into the right mix of investments for them. For borrowers, these rate cuts can mean some welcome relief, whether through lower mortgage renewal costs, new opportunities for first-time home buyers, or more manageable financing for businesses.

In times like these, I believe there is much to be optimistic about. Challenges in the housing market and global economy continue, but lower rates open doors for families and businesses to take steps forward. And despite uncertainty, I see the same resilience and creativity in our communities that has always carried us through change.

At SCU, our role is to walk alongside you—listening, guiding, and offering practical solutions that fit your life. Whether you're saving, borrowing, or investing your wealth for the future, we are here to help you navigate today's realities while keeping your long-term goals in sight.

Curtis

October, 2025

Here's what's happening at SCU

SAVE THE DATE
AGM is on March 17
Look for your voting package in the mail in January 2026 for details on how to vote for your new board members.

INSIGHTS & ADVICE – TIPS FROM AN EXPERT WEBINARS
On the second Wednesday of each month from September through June, SCU holds informative online webinars on a range of helpful financial topics. Visit our website at the link below to see the upcoming calendar of webinars and events.

SHARE THE LIGHT: THE SPIRIT OF GIVING – NOVEMBER 12 - DECEMBER 15
Each year SCU invites all members and social media followers to nominate a registered charity of choice to receive one of two donations from SCU on behalf of our community. Keep an eye on our website and social media for further details and nomination announcements.

CHRISTMAS CHOIRS IN THE STEINBACH BRANCH – DECEMBER 8 - 19 WEEKDAYS 10:15 A.M.
Do you hear what I hear? Join us in branch for the sound of a different local school choir each day.

ZOO LIGHTS – NOVEMBER 22, 2025 - JANUARY 5, 2026
Celebrate winter's bright lights in the spectacular setting of Assiniboine Park Zoo for Zoo Lights. SCU will be there December 6 and December 7 with our annual Wishing Tree, a chance for children 14 and younger to be granted their holiday gift wish.

THE WINNIPEG RENOVATION SHOW – JANUARY 16 - 18, 2026
Looking for inspiration for your next home renovation? Join us at the RBC Convention Centre. While there, stop by our booth and talk to one of our lending specialists about financing your next renovation.

Get updates and explore all our events at **scu.mb.ca/events**

REMINDER!

November is Financial Literacy Month in Canada. It's a great time to brush up on your financial know-how and skills, and improve your financial well-being. SCU has tools and calculators to help you build your best financial future.

scu.mb.ca/FLM tools

SCU in the Community

SHRED DAY - SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

This year's Shred Day was a huge success! Together, we shredded 41,000 pounds of paper across our branches. That's about the weight of two *Tyrannosaurus rex*, 30 cows, 90,000 hamsters, or 55,000 cans of tomato soup. And speaking of soup cans...thank you to everyone who brought a tin for the bin! Your donations will go to local charities to support those who need them most. Thank you to all who dropped by branches with their documents for shredding. A final thank you to our partner, Iron Mountain, and our SCU crew of volunteers. See you next year!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TEAM BUILD – SEPTEMBER 26 AND OCTOBER 10

Habitat for Humanity helps families build strength, stability, and independence through affordable homeownership. SCU is proud to announce our partnership with Habitat for Humanity Manitoba through a five-year commitment of funding and volunteer support. Starting this fall, we had our first opportunity to participate in our annual team build days, contributing directly to the construction of the largest development in the history of Habitat Manitoba.

Habitat for Humanity® Manitoba

Let's build a stronger community together.

Maximizing your GICs

There may be few guarantees in life; but a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) is one of them. With a GIC, your initial investment is protected, making them a safe and reliable way to grow your savings over time. SCU offers a number of GIC types, each with its own pros and cons depending on your needs.

TYPE OF GIC	KEY BENEFIT	FEATURES	TERMS	REDEEM-ABLE?	TAX IMPLICATIONS	DEPOSIT GUARANTEE **DGCM
Fixed rate GICs	A competitive interest rate with low risk and high reward.	· Guaranteed rate of return · Tiered rates paid on entire balance*	1- to 5-year terms	No	All interest taxed as income	Yes
Registered GICs	Maximize your savings by receiving tax benefits on your investments.	· Guaranteed rate of return · Tiered rates paid on entire balance* ·Interest paid annually and can be compounded or paid out to your variable registered account	1- to 5-year terms	No	Tax benefit determined by registered product option	Yes
Index -Linked GICs	A safer way to participate in the stock market.	· Fluctuating rate of return · Returns are based on the S&P/TSX 60 Index · No caps or limits on re-turns	3-year or 5-year term	No	Taxed as interest income	Yes (initial investment only)
U.S. Dollar GICs	Diversify your portfolio or earn extra interest for your next getaway.	· Guaranteed rate of return · Pays interest in U.S. dollars at the end of the term	30, 60, or 90-day; or 1-year term	No	Taxed as interest income	Yes

* Tiered rates are not available on GIC specials.
** Includes all savings and chequing accounts, RRSPs, RRIFs, TFSAs, FHSAs, and GICs.

Explore your options and let's talk about which GIC is right for you. Contact a deposit specialist to book an appointment at **scu.mb.ca/booknow** or call us at **1.800.728.6440**.

Big dreams start with small steps

SETTING YOUR KIDS ON THE RIGHT PATH WITH RESPS

As a parent, you know that life goes by fast. One minute you're wondering why glitter is listed on your eight-year-old's school supply list, and the next you're asking yourself how you'll be able to afford a $2,000 laptop for university.

That's where Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) come in. They're the federal government's way of helping you save for your child's post-secondary education. In other words, they help you check that laptop, along with tuition, off their school supply list.

By starting in those glitter years—or even earlier—you're ensuring much more peace of mind down the road.

RESPs have a maximum lifetime contribution of $50,000 per child. They're tax-deferred, meaning withdrawals are taxed at the student's tax bracket, which is likely lower than your own. Although that feature alone is a big advantage, the federal government will also contribute 20% on the first $2,500 deposited into an RESP each year through the Canadian Education and Savings Grant (CESG) program.

As a parent with competing expenses and savings goals, it can be a challenge to set aside savings for this kind of long-term investment; however, you can get more from your RESPs with these simple strategies:

Start early: Even if you only have a small amount to contribute each month, time also plays an important role in growing your savings. Plus, by regularly depositing funds each year, you can maximize the government's CESG contribution.

Set pre-authorized debits: Pre-authorized debits are a great solution to help you remember to contribute to an RESP. Setup is fast and easy. You can sit down and plan once, then let the automation do the heavy lifting.

Encourage RESPs contributions as gifts: RESPs are great ways for friends and family to invest in your child's future.

Scan the code to get answers to frequently asked questions and learn more about opening an RESP.

When you're ready to take the next step, we're here to help you start saving for your child's education journey. Book an appointment to open your RESP today!

What information is required to open an RESP?

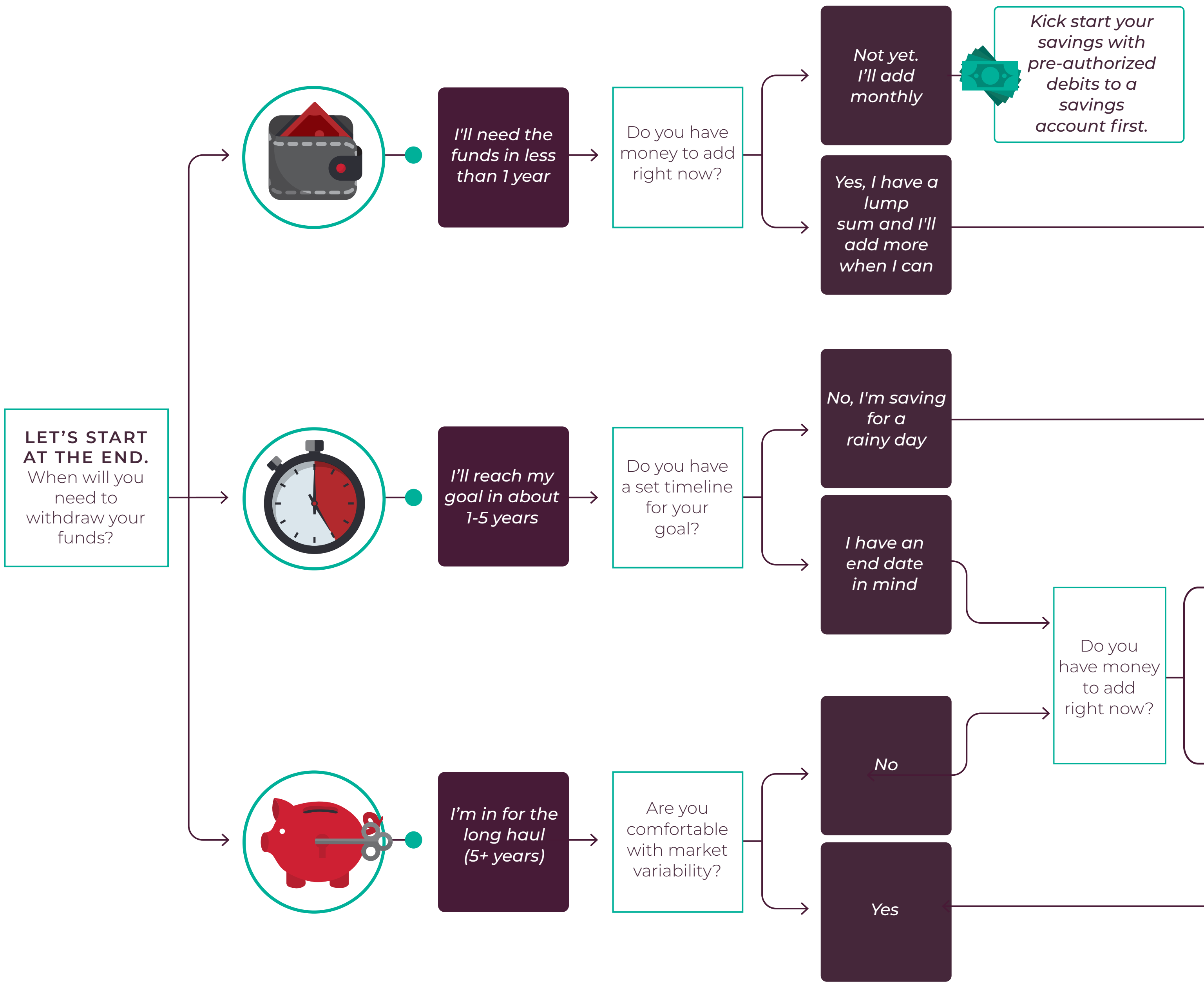
To open an RESP you will need information for both the subscriber (an adult or guardian) and the beneficiary (the child).

Here's a quick checklist:

- The Social Insurance Numbers (SINs) for the beneficiary
- Proof of Canadian residency for the beneficiary
- Child's full name and date of birth
- Proof of the relationship to the beneficiary for family plans
- Completed and signed primary caregiver forms (if applicable)
- Your banking information for contributions

Big or small a TFSA can help you save for it all

TFSAS: TAX-FREE GROWTH FOR EVERY SAVINGS GOAL



MAKE YOUR TFSA WORK FOR YOU

Tax-free investment growth and great interest rates make the TFSA a clear winner for savvy savers. Plus, you can choose from a variety of investment options within your TFSA to suit all kinds of savings goals.

Not yet. I'll add monthly

*Yes, I have a lump sum now and I'll make regular contributions***

Variable Savings

Given your goals and timeline, consider saving your funds in a variable TFSA. At SCU, you'll:

· Earn interest right from dollar one
· Access funds when you need them
· Enjoy a 100% deposit guarantee*

Next level

As you begin to grow your savings, consider diversifying by adding GICs and/or mutual funds to your portfolio.

Open a variable TFSA online.

Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC)

For mid- and long-term goals with a known endpoint, choose a GIC. At SCU, receive:

· Guaranteed rate of return
· 100% deposit guarantee*
· Choice of term length from one to five years

Next level

Explore how Index-Linked GICs can help you participate in the market while protecting your principal investment.

Call or book an appointment online.

Mutual Funds***, Stocks***, or Bonds***

If you're saving for more than five years, consider mutual funds and/or market-related products.

· Diversify your portfolio
· Professionally managed
· Potential for greater returns overall

Next level

You deserve a plan. As your money grows, consider meeting with an advisor who can ensure you're doing all you can to build your wealth and protect what matters.

Contact an Aviso Wealth Advisor or Aviso Mutual Fund Investment Specialist at 1.800.728.6440.

** At SCU, all deposits are guaranteed 100% by the Deposit Guarantee Corporation of Manitoba. This includes savings accounts, chequing accounts, RRSPs, RRIFs, TFSAs, RESPs, RDSPs, FHSAs, and GICs.*

***GICs require a minimum contribution of $500. If you choose a GIC for your TFSA, and are making regular contributions, first save in a variable TFSA until you have the minimum $500 contribution needed for a GIC.*

****Mutual funds and other securities are offered through Aviso Wealth, a division of Aviso Financial Inc. Unless otherwise stated, mutual fund securities and cash balances are not covered by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation or by any other government deposit insurer that insures deposits in credit unions.*

Everyone's saving situation is unique – and there are many strategies that work for different circumstances. We encourage you to seek personalized advice from qualified professionals regarding your unique savings needs and goals.

Mortgages made for real life

REAL ADVICE. REAL FLEXIBILITY. REAL SUPPORT.

We know that a mortgage isn't just a financial product, it's a big step in your life. Our lending specialists will work with you to create a mortgage solution that fits your needs today and tomorrow. Whether you're buying, building, renovating, or renewing, we'll walk you through your options, offer personalized advice, and guide you every step of the way. You deserve a mortgage built around your needs, your budget, and your goals.

A great place to begin is by making a list of your financial goals and ranking them by importance. Instead of trying to fit into a mortgage, let your needs and goals guide your decision. Whether you're looking for competitive rates, seeking flexible repayment options, leveraging your home equity, or are new to Canada, we have a mortgage made for your life.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING A MORTGAGE

How do you choose which mortgage option is best for you? It all depends on your unique goals and financial situation. To start, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What's my timeline for buying a home?

Timeline is a key factor in your decision-making process. If you don't have the 20% down payment required for a Conventional mortgage, can you afford to wait and save longer, or build more home equity? Or is your priority to get into a home sooner, making a High-Ratio mortgage a more viable option?

2. What other financial goals do I want to achieve?

Buying a home shouldn't be at the expense of all other financial goals. Can you comfortably make a 20% down payment? Do you still have money to set aside for an emergency fund, retirement savings, or any other priorities you may have?

3. Do I have equity from a previous home?

It's often much easier to make a higher down payment on your second home since you're also using equity from your first home. Maybe you had a High-Ratio mortgage for your first home, but if you've lived there for a while, or your home value has increased, you may be able to get a Conventional mortgage the second time around.

Crunch the numbers

Still not sure which option is best for you? Use the QR code to visit the Tools and calculators on our website. Try our mortgage calculator to determine your monthly principal and interest payment.

When you're ready, book an appointment and take the next step. Our lending specialists are here to help you along your homebuying journey.

Considering a new credit card?

Explore our credit card offers*
at **scu.mb.ca/creditcards**

**Terms and Conditions apply. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owner(s).*

Real opportunities don't need secrecy

Cyber security checklist

BEING CYBER SAFE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE COMPLICATED. YOU CAN STAY SAFE ONLINE WITH THE RIGHT RESOURCES AND TOOLS.

This checklist is a guideline for staying safe online and protecting your information.

- [ ] Use strong, **unique passwords** (12+ characters) for each account
- [ ] Set up **security alerts** for key digital banking activities
- [ ] Install and maintain **security** software
- [ ] Ensure websites are **secure and use HTTPS** before you enter data
- [ ] **Avoid public Wi-Fi** for banking or sensitive tasks
- [ ] Don't click **suspicious links or attachments**. Double-check the sender address
- [ ] Change the default name and **password for your Wi-Fi network**
- [ ] Keep your **system and apps updated**
- [ ] **Share less on social media** and be cautious with personal details
- [ ] **Trust your instincts**. If something feels off, stop and verify before you act

Now may be a good time to...

The end of one year and the beginning of the next is a great time to review your investments and prepare for the upcoming year.

Review your estate plan, your will, your Power of Attorney (POA), and Health Care Directive.

Touch base with your insurers to confirm they have your current contact information. Ensure your family is aware of the policy and where it's kept.

Review your 2024 notice of assessment to confirm your available contribution room in your RRSPs.

Turning 71 in 2026? If you haven't already, consider speaking with your wealth advisor to create a plan for the transfer of your RRSPs to RRIFs.

Contribute or top off your TFSAs for the 2025 year.

Reminder! Contribution deadline for RESPs and RDSPs is December 31.

Use up any expiring health plan benefits.

Gather your out-of-pocket medical expenses and receipts for tax purposes before the Spring rush.

Visit your safe deposit box and ensure your fees and/or contact information are current.

Meet with your advisor to create your 2026 budget and set your new savings goal.

Book an appointment with an SCU Member Financial Relationship Advisor or Wealth Advisor to review or re-evaluate your goals to ensure you're on track to achieve them.

QUESTIONS? Call us today at **1.800.728.6440**, book an appointment at **scu.mb.ca/booknow**, or visit any SCU branch for assistance.

Beneficiary review

Often, this is the time of year when people re-evaluate their investments, which also makes it a good time to review designated beneficiaries.

Caution: Your designation of beneficiary by means of a designation form will not be revoked or changed automatically by any future marriage or divorce. Should you wish to change your beneficiary in the event of a future marriage or divorce, you will have to do so by means of a new designation.

Refer a new member

Share the news with your friends and family!
When you choose SCU, you're not just opening an account, you're becoming part of a financial institution that invests in you and your community.

SCU.MB.CA/REFERRAL

2025 SCU Board of Directors

Maria Reimer
Board Chair

Bruce Penner
1st Vice-Chair

Chris Goertzen
2nd Vice-Chair

Doris Martens
Director

Jeremy Hildebrand
Director

Jayson Barkman
Director

Bonnie Goertzen
Director

Kris Plett
Director

Matt Kehler
Director

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