



Ushering In Your Life As A New Couple

You've finally met the one you want to build a life with. Whether it's wedding bells or a moving van that will mark your passage to coupledness, there are many aspects of your once-single life that need to be reviewed. From your plans for a new family home to your shared future aspirations, it's your finances that will play a large role in helping you attain these goals. Yet, finances are one of the topics that are least discussed by couples.

Along with the bliss of sharing your life with someone come more responsibilities – especially in the financial arena. Whether you are a young couple who has recently moved in together or are getting married, some sound planning can help you bring your financial picture into focus.

Among the top considerations are your everyday banking, investment planning, and protection of your income and assets. Overlooking these important aspects of your new life could lead to disagreements and missed opportunities to attain the future you dream of. The decisions you make will help you determine a joint plan for your financial future and may even extend the honeymoon period.

Making Day-To-Day Banking Easier

One of the first steps for new couples is deciding how to handle day-to-day expenses. For couples, Asset Advantage Account® (AAA) offers the flexibility they need and a way to simplify their combined financial lives. AAA is a multi-faceted investment service that integrates investment, banking and borrowing transactions into one easy-to-access account.

AAA integrates an investment account held at CIBC Wood Gundy and a special chequing account held at CIBC. The chequing account is set up to facilitate your banking transactions and as a conduit to your investments. AAA combines professional advice from your CIBC Wood Gundy Investment Advisor with a full complement of CIBC personal banking and credit card services.

Key benefits of AAA that make managing daily transactions convenient and worry-free for couples include:

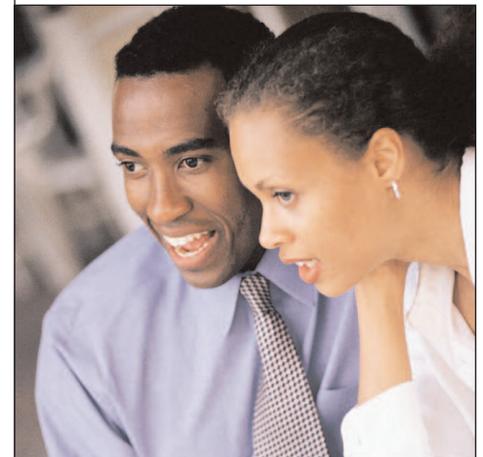
- Both individual's names appear on cheques
- A CIBC Wood Gundy AAA convenience card for each person
- Direct deposits of paycheques and other income sources
- Pre-authorized debits for mortgage payments, bill payments and other expenses
- Choice of CIBC Aerogold® VISA* or CIBC Wood Gundy AAA VISA card, with individual names
- Automatic monthly VISA balance paid in full from your AAA account
- Access to Canadian dollar chequing and VISA accounts using CIBC's bank machines via AAA convenience card
- 24-hour, worldwide access to AAA through CIBC Online and Telephone Banking services

And, as you begin your financial life together, you can take advantage of other AAA account features including: Premium interest rates on your entire cash balance on every dollar, instant investment loans at preferred rates, detailed reporting on one consolidated statement and much more.

Financial Checklist For Couples

As you undertake merging two separate financial lives into one, make sure to review the following:

- Joint accounts: Decide whether you will combine all, some or none of your finances
- Investments: Implement a savings plan to reach your future objectives
- Credit cards: Determine the number of single or combined cards that meet your needs
- Beneficiaries: Check beneficiary designations on Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP), life insurance policies, bank accounts, etc.
- RRSPs: If applicable, consider a Spousal RRSP
- Update Wills: Review to take your partner into account
- Life insurance: Update to ensure coverage is sufficient
- Home ownership: Consider if ownership should be held individually or jointly



Investing In Your Future

Now that you're combining your resources, it's an apt time to look at your investments and where you want them to take you in the future. One effective route to take is investing through mutual funds to help achieve your joint financial goals.

Mutual funds are the pooled monies of a group of investors with common goals, invested by professional money managers in stocks, bonds, options, and/or money market securities. Regardless of the type of mutual fund selected, you get the following advantages:

- Access to professional money management
- Reduced investment risk due to diversification
- Investment liquidity
- Ability to transfer between funds in a given fund family
- Easy and convenient transactions

Protecting Your Biggest Assets: Each Other

As a couple, it's even more important to safeguard yourselves against the unexpected. The loss of the income of one partner can have a devastating effect on the ability to continue to pay for expenses like a mortgage or other bills. Disability insurance and critical illness insurance can help you put a solid wealth preservation plan in place to protect the value of your assets from any potential damage.

Disability insurance typically provides benefit income for the period you are prevented from working due to a disability caused by an accident or sickness. For couples, disability insurance helps to maintain your current lifestyle through recovery. It also helps to preserve your investments by providing you with an alternative source of revenue so you won't have to liquidate your accumulated assets at a potential loss.

In the event of a significant illness, critical illness insurance is designed to bridge the gap between life insurance that pays out upon death and disability insurance that covers lost wages due to accident or sickness. Critical illness insurance pays a benefit when the policyholder is diagnosed with an illness specifically covered by the policy. For couples, critical illness insurance protects your assets and may provide you with more flexibility when it comes to deciding which treatment is best without having to worry about the cost.

Finding A Partner Who Can Guide You

All of these considerations can seem overwhelming. Your CIBC Wood Gundy Investment Advisor can offer you expertise to find the solutions that are right for you as you begin your new life. Your Investment Advisor is well versed in the diverse strategies you can use at this important stage of your life.

Mutual Funds 101

The popularity of mutual funds has resulted in an increase in the number and type of mutual funds available, ranging from the more conservative, such as some fixed income funds, to the more growth oriented, such as most equity funds. Some of the most common include:

- **Fixed Income:** Most invest in high-quality bonds issued by domestic or foreign governments, provinces and corporations
- **Dividend:** Invest in high-yielding, dividend-paying preferred and common shares
- **Equity:** Mainly invest in equities
- **Balanced:** Invest in a combination of equities, bonds and short-term money-market instruments
- **Index:** Mirror the performance of a particular index

Your CIBC Wood Gundy Investment Advisor can help you explore the mutual fund universe to find one that's right for you.



Expertise that's one to one. | 1:1

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