How To Develop a Financial Plan by Cary Leung Sun Life

Cary Leung of Sun Life Financial brings nearly three decades of experience to his position as a financial advisor. Through his work with Sun Life, Cary Leung provides financial planning services to more than 1,000 individuals and families in British Columbia.

A financial plan is a detailed assessment of your current financial circumstances as well as your short-term, intermediate, and long-term financial goals. Typically, a financial plan includes the following information:

1. Income - You should consider not only salary, but also tax returns and investment earnings.

2. [Assets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asset%E2%80%8E) - Take stock of your savings accounts, investments, retirement savings, and equity in your house, automobile, and other recreational vehicles.

3. Debts and liabilities - Consider not only your monthly expenses, but also your overall debt from mortgages and credit cards as well as student, car, and consumer loans. Also, consider how you would pay for unexpected situations such as unemployment, house repairs, or a major illness.

4. Retirement income - Calculate what your retirement income may be by examining your Social Security benefits as well as your 401K or pension and other investments. Take stock of your savings and investment patterns to see whether they need to be adjusted.

5. Insurance - Determine if you have the appropriate type and level of insurance to meet your needs, including health, life, disability, and long-term care.

6. Estate planning - Assure that beneficiaries are properly designated for wills, trusts, retirement accounts, and other assets.

7. Goal Analysis – Determine your financial goals for each decade of your life as well as the lifestyle you want now or in the future. Outline the steps needed to achieve your objectives.