

Foreign Content for your RRSP?

By George Perdue, B. Sc. P. Eng.

What's the big deal we keep hearing about "allowable foreign content" for your RRSP?

If you review the performance of stock markets and Gross Domestic Product around the globe you find that Canada has been outperformed in the long run.

It might stand to reason that a portion of an investment portfolio should be in foreign companies and governments.

Some analysts however, believe that Canada is now poised to out-perform because of the recently achieved efficiencies thanks to the recession. While this may or may not prove to be true, those investing in foreign securities do expose themselves to the added volatility associated with currency fluctuations. This





can amplify gains and losses. So proceed cautiously.

The rules now allow up to 18% foreign content in an

You can achieve an 18% foreign content in your RRSP by opening an RRSP with an investment company that has both Canadian and foreign investment securities available. You mix 18% of the foreign investment with the Canadian investment.

In fact you can get to about 33% foreign content with this technique by choosing an investment company that has a Canadian RRSP eligible investment that has 18% foreign content in it and topping up this investment with a foreign investment equal to 18% of the total in the RRSP account.

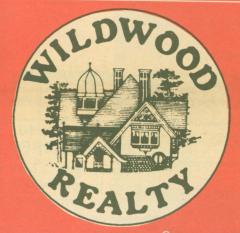
For those who favour income type investments

inside an RRSP foreign bonds work well. In fact foreign bonds are expected to do well this year because European interest rates are still high but beginning to fall as Germany decreased rates last week.

For those wishing to add foreign equities to their RRSP the choice is limitless. US equities have been favourites in the past with small capitalized companies leading the way.

The tax season is almost on us. Money Concepts will be offering tax oriented services including tax planning and tax preparation. Details will follow.

George Perdue is a Planner, Financial Business Consultant, and Partner in Money Concepts, Halton Hills. He can be contacted at (416) 873-1877.



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