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October 2023 Edition

The fall colours are vibrant and so is *The Essential* with a new financial literacy campaign, an enhanced customer experience and problems that plan sponsors should avoid.

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GRS Insights

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Mission: Leader in customer experience for Group Benefits and Retirement Savings

Since the beginning of the year, both lines of business have been joining forces to deliver an enhanced customer experience. And the transformation continues!



SMEs: How to recruit and retain employees

What if employees' overall wellness was the key to success for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)?

Your plan members

New "game show" premiering for Financial Literacy Month

Your plan members can watch three 5-minute episodes on different topics to help them achieve their financial goals.

How to

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Problems to avoid at all costs

Be sure to send the contribution list with your payments and check for missing enrolments.

Mandatory plan conversion: Benefits statement wasn't received?

Follow these 2 simple steps to correct the situation. Don't forget that these people will have to choose a retirement income product by the end of the year.

Investments and financial markets

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Changes to the strategic allocation of the PH&N Balanced Fund

An exposure to global direct infrastructure will be added.

In the coming months, PH&N will be introducing a new global direct infrastructure strategy to the PH&N Balanced Pension Trust Fund, offered on our Desjardins Insurance group retirement savings platform through the DFS PH&N Balanced Fund. This change aims to improve the fund's diversification and benefit from the exposure to a new asset class available following an expansion of the manager's



investment capacities. The fund's strategic allocation to global direct infrastructure will be set at 2%, with an initial allocation established at 1%. This allocation will be deployed over time and will be funded by allocations to both equities and fixed-income securities.

PH&N will also be introducing a strategic allocation of 4.5% to global investment grade corporate bonds. This allocation will be funded by a portion of the current allocation of 7.5% to the global bond fund, which invests primarily in sovereign bonds. This change aims to better balance the fund's exposure to global sovereign bonds and corporate bonds, and to increase the return expected from the bond component of the fund.

For the moment, the fund's benchmark will remain the same. The manager will reassess the fund's strategic weightings and benchmark once the allocation to global direct infrastructure reaches its long-term objective of 2%.

These modifications will not have any impact on the DFS PH&N Balanced Fund's investment fee.

For more information about these changes, don't hesitate to contact your client relationship manager.

News from Grandeur Peak

Departure of Stuart Rigby, Co-portfolio Manager of the Emerging Markets Opportunities Fund

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Notes



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