

The Di Rocco Keenan Wealth Advisory Group



It was a year ago this month where we started **2023 with very little clarity**. Inflation was continuing to creep up and central banks around the world were pushing forward with their aggressive fiscal tightening. The first quarter started off shaky, largely driven by the US regional bank crisis in March. There was definitely some pain along the way, but **eventually the rate increases started to take effect**, helping to slow inflation. There was a collective sigh of relief that the Fed and Bank of Canada's instrument of choice was working. What none of us anticipated was the sharp reversal of sentiment which led to some spectacular returns to end the year.

We wanted to refresh your memories of 2023 as a starting point for 2024. It is a great reminder to all of us that we don't know where the market will go in the short term, but what we do know is **that the more time in the market, the more consistent our overall returns**.

Wishing everyone a great new year!

Lianne and Jamie



2024 New Year's Resolutions

We are all about New Year's Resolutions here. When it comes to wealth management, the list can be long so we've broken down our team's favourite resolutions for 2024:

1. Top up those TFSAs - with the contribution limit increasing to \$7,000, the TFSA is a great way to keep more money in your pocket vs. the government!
2. Take a look at the new First Home Savings Accounts - we've seen some great traction with the FSHA. See our [latest interview on BNN](#) sharing some ways parents and grandparents are getting involved in helping their kids enter the real estate market.
3. Review your insurance coverage. Life changes - and so do your insurance needs. Take a look at your term and permanent life insurance policies to ensure they are still aligned to your financial goals. We recently reviewed a client's external life insurance policies and helped her save over \$7,000 annually.
4. Any major life events occur in 2023? Review your Wills and POAs. Are they still aligned with your family goals and financial situation?

January 2024

2024 TFSA Contributions

The CRA has announced that the 2024 TFSA contribution limit is \$7000. Let us know if we can help you make your contribution.

RIF and LIF Withdrawals

A notice indicating your annual minimum withdrawals will be included with your January 2024 monthly statements. We are also happy to provide this information to you. Please reach out to us if you need any assistance.

It's RRSP Season!

February 29, 2024 is the deadline for contributing to your RRSP for the 2023 tax year. The RRSP contribution limit for the 2023 tax year is 18% of earned income you reported on your tax return in the previous year, up to a maximum of \$30,780.

Industry Trends



Presidential Elections and Market Performance

Historically, the S&P500 outperforms during the 12-month period following a US election compared to the 12-months leading up to the date. This is independent of whether the incoming president is a Democrat or Republican. While past performance doesn't guarantee future returns, the average S&P500 performance after the election is +9.3% compared to an average performance of +8.4% over the 12-months prior to an election.

Source:

<https://www.forbes.com/advisor/investing/how-do-elections-affect-the-stock-market/>

