

10 Questions to Ask Your Financial Planner

FP Canada suggests asking these 10 questions to help you choose a competent, qualified professional to assist you with your financial needs...

1. What are your qualifications?

CFP® Certified Financial Planner – Awarded August 2000

The CFP designation provides assurance to Canadians that the design of their financial future rests with an appropriately qualified professional who is committed to putting clients' interests ahead of their own.

CIWM Certified International Wealth Manager – Awarded December 2012

The Certified International Wealth Manager (CIWM) designation ensures that financial professionals have the knowledge and skills to address the complex needs of high-net-worth clients.

CIM® - Chartered Investment Manager – Awarded November 2013

The CIM® demonstrates proficiency and adherence to professional standards that enables the advisor to become registered with the provincial securities commission as a Portfolio Manager, Advising Representative or an Associate Advising Representative or to be able to conduct discretionary portfolio management services for clients with an IIROC member firm.

FCSI® - Fellow of the Canadian Securities Institute – Awarded March 2019

More than 3,500 FCSIs have been leading, changing and inspiring the financial services industry for the past 35 years.

2. What experience do you have?

I have been serving clients since 1998 at firms such as BMO Nesbitt Burns and Manulife Securities Incorporated. In addition, I have held management or executive positions at Standard Life Assurance Company of Canada Ltd., HSBC Securities (Canada) Ltd., Bank of Nova Scotia, and BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc.

3. What services do you offer?

- Holistic financial planning services, including consideration of financial management, tax planning, asset management, retirement planning, risk management, and estate planning.
- Ongoing monitoring of your financial affairs, including investment monitoring and related annual tax planning and reporting
- Plan review on an annual or as-needed basis
- In addition to financial advice, I provide a full-range of investment solutions and life insurance products.

4. What is your approach?

Although I am occasionally engaged to provide a plan for clients to implement themselves, most families engage me to generate a plan and provide implementation, and ongoing monitoring of progress toward their goals.

5. Will you be the only person working with me?

During the course of the financial planning engagement, there may be a need to consult with third-party professionals (e.g., tax or insurance specialists) or to make referrals to other professionals to assist with the implementation of the financial plan. Consultations with third-party professionals will not take place without your written agreement, and we will not share your Personal Information with such third-party professionals without your express consent.

Please be advised that I do not receive fees in any form from professionals to whom you may be referred. However, such professionals may levy a fee for their services which will be negotiated with and charged to you directly.

6. How will I pay for your services?

- Asset based fee - clients who would like us to construct and implement the plan and provide ongoing monitoring and review pay a tiered fixed percentage of your combined household investments' market value
- Hourly Fee – Clients who would like a plan but prefer to implement themselves are offered the option of paying an hourly fee (not to exceed estimate at time of engagement). Typically, the total fee is in the range of \$1250 - \$1500 plus HST.
- Life insurance commissions - Specific to life insurance products as part of your solution, we are compensated by the companies with whom we place your business. No alternative fee structure is offered by insurance companies.

7. How much do you typically charge?

The planner should be able to provide you with an easy to understand estimate of their fees.

Asset based – Holistic Wealth Management including Personal Family Wealth Plan with consideration of financial management, tax planning, asset management, retirement planning, risk management, and estate planning will be set as a tiered fixed percentage of your investments' market value.

Household Asset Tier	Fee Rate
\$0 - \$499,999	1.50%
\$500,000 - \$999,999	1.25%
\$1,000,000 - \$2,499,999	1.0%
\$2,500,000 - \$4,999,999	0.75%
\$5,000,000 - \$9,999,999	0.50%
\$10,000,000 +	0.45%

8. Who, besides me, will benefit?

As a CFP professional, I have a written professional obligation to put your interests ahead of my own. I attest to this obligation each year when I renew my certification with FP Canada.

9. Are you regulated?

Yes, as follows:

Financial Planning – As a planner who holds the CFP credential, I am subject to internationally recognized professional standards and Code of Ethics to which I must attest annually.

Investment Advisor – monitored by Branch Manager on behalf of Manulife Securities Incorporated, subject to guidelines of Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada.

Life Insurance - Managing General Agency for insurance products is Manulife Securities Incorporated Insurance or Alta Vista Planning Partners and Financial Horizons Group on behalf of Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario.

10. Can I have that in writing?

Yes, should we decide to work together, you will be provided a Letter of Engagement outlining services and fees and scope signed by each of us.

Stocks, bonds and mutual funds are offered through Manulife Securities Incorporated. Insurance products and services are offered through Manulife Securities Insurance Inc. Banking products and services are offered by referral arrangements through our related company Manulife Bank of Canada, additional disclosure information will be provided upon referral.

Manulife Securities related companies are 100% owned by The Manufactures Life Insurance Company (MLI) which is 100% owned by the Manulife Financial Corporation a publicly traded company. Details regarding all affiliated companies of MLI can be found on the Manulife Securities website www.manulifesecurities.ca. Please confirm with your advisor which company you are dealing with for each of your products and services.