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RETIRING SOON? -- NEW WEB-BASED RESOURCE NOW AVAILABLE

Canadians planning to retire within the next year or so now have access to a new, one-stop resource, called *Retiring Soon*?, that will help with answering some of their key questions as they prepare to leave the workforce.

"Moving from the workplace into retirement can be a daunting process, but it doesn't need to be if you are confident that you're ready to take that next step. Using this new web-based tool can give you that much needed confidence," says Frank Swedlove, President of the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association (CLHIA), the organization that developed *Retiring Soon*?. "We believe that this is a one-of-a-kind resource targeted specifically to the 'nearly retired', one that gathers together all the key information that you should consider before leaving the workforce."

"This is truly a unique and informative resource that aligns with Canada's National Strategy for Financial Literacy," noted Canada's Financial Literacy Leader Jane Rooney. "Employers and advisors alike will also find it helpful as they provide information and advice on retirement to their employees and clients."

Retiring Soon? is a web-based tool, accessible on computers, tablets and smart phones, that centralizes the essential information that near-retirees need to think about and steps they need to take -- things like how to apply for government benefits such as CPP and QPP, converting workplace pensions and personal RRSPs into retirement income, how to organize family and financial documents, the role of financial advisors, links to provincial resources for seniors, and much more. "Our industry welcomes the opportunity to help Canadians succeed in this area and to contribute to Canada's overall financial literacy objectives," added Mr. Swedlove.

About the CLHIA

The CLHIA is a voluntary association whose member companies account for 99 per cent of Canada's life and health insurance business. The industry provides a wide range of financial security products such as life insurance, annuities (including RRSPs, RRIFs and pensions) and supplementary health insurance to 28 million Canadians. It also holds close to \$720 billion of assets in Canada and employs about 155,000 Canadians.

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For background information and comments, see here.

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