

Letter to the St John's Telegram

May 11, 2010

To the Editor,

Judging from her recent column "Helping the banks not the way to go" (May 8, 2010), it appears Lana Payne did not fully grasp the banking industry's recommendations to improve the retirement savings system in Canada.

In our submissions to the federal government on pension reform we conclude that while the current system is not broken there is certainly room for improvement to ensure each and every person in the country is able save money for retirement.

Among our recommendations, we suggest that the government enact changes that would make the system more flexible. A one-size-fits-all public sector approach cannot effectively address the savings needs of all Canadians, which vary substantially and also evolve as individuals progress through different stages of life.

We believe one of the best ways to improve the current system is to give all Canadians the opportunity to participate in a structured pension plan by de-linking pension plans from employment relationships. This would help more people to save for their retirement, especially small business owners and the self-employed.

And contrary to Ms. Payne's personal musings, Canadians have a great deal of confidence in our country's banks – a recent survey by PricewaterhouseCoopers found that 85 per cent of Canadians expressed confidence in Canada's banking system.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hughes Anthony
President and CEO
Canadian Bankers Association