



# Help Your Money

The Retirement Plan for the Employees of the Participating Employers of the Many Nations Pension Plan Newsletter.

# Grow

JUNE 2006

## The strength of Many Nations protecting our future

During the 1980s, many First Nations actively exercised their right of self-determination by taking control over important aspects in their lives. One area of particular interest was a concern for protecting their future.

Such interests led to the birth of Many Nations. The Company would provide protection for the future by offering benefit and pension plans to its members. Joe Carter, of Onion Lake First Nation, became the first Chairperson. With a strong desire to bring about change, Joe Carter believed, "There had to be a way to provide Aboriginal organizations and their employees with affordable and culturally appropriate group benefits, including pension." There was a clear need for the services provided by **Many Nations** and the new company grew rapidly.

**Today**, the **Many Nations Multi-Employer Pension Plan** is the largest First Nations Pension Plan in Canada. The Many Nations Pension Plan combines over 160 large and small First Nations organizations with more than 4000 members from across Canada, while managing in excess of \$80 million in pension assets. This growing value translates into economic power resulting in more competitive pricing – we pass the savings on to "YOU", the member.



# Credit – an important asset when used properly



It's difficult, today, to avoid being in debt - for your home, your car or school loan. By managing your credit carefully, you can better manage debt by becoming eligible for flexible mortgages, lines of credit, personal loans and credit cards. Managing your credit and debt also ensures you will have the money to remain committed to - and fully benefit from - your retirement savings goal.

Establishing a good credit rating means proving you are responsible and can pay back borrowed money on time. An established credit rating helps significantly when you want to borrow larger sums of money – for a car or mortgage, for instance. By using credit cards and paying the monthly balance in full, you benefit from the convenience of a short-term loan without incurring any interest charges.

Your credit rating is like a financial report card. You are assigned a 'grade' that tells potential lenders how reliable you likely are to pay back borrowed money. Your credit rating includes details about your payment history and credit sources, including any bankruptcy or tax lien information.

To prevent damaging your credit, use your credit cards responsibly and make at least the minimum required payment every month or ideally, pay the balance in full. If it is difficult for you to pay your monthly balances off completely, consider consolidating all your balances into a single lower-interest loan.

By managing your credit responsibly, you open doors. You build the trust of future lending institutions and help your retirement saving stay on track financially.

## IMF information now available on the member statement

You can now review your investment management fees (IMFs) quickly and easily by looking in the Investment Bulletin at the back of your statement. You can also access your IMF information on the secure member website at [www.manulife.ca/GRO](http://www.manulife.ca/GRO) at any time. After you log in, choose the **Investment information** option in the left menu.

An IMF is the fee you pay for services required to monitor and manage funds available through your plan. These services include management of the securities held in the fund, record-keeping and administration. The IMF is deducted from the gross unit value (the value of a unit of a fund before any fee deductions).

### Got Questions?

Contact the Many Nations Financial Services Ltd. Head Office toll-free at **1-800-667-7830**.