



# Consumer Sense

Information from SACU and CFS\* to help keep your financial life in balance

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### **Spring Cleaning**

It's finally spring! Now is the time to de-clutter your home of unnecessary items you've accumulated in the past year. While spring cleaning your home, you may want to do the same for your personal finances. Just after tax season is the perfect time to assess your budget, bank accounts, debts and investments.

### **Refinance and Loan Consolidation**

If you currently have a mortgage or an auto loan, take a look at your interest rates. If you find that you are paying above average interest rates, you may want to consider refinancing. Make sure you are aware of any additional costs associated with refinancing and factor that into your decision. Another way to lower your debt is to look into loan consolidation. This involves rolling smaller individual loans into one larger loan reducing your many

monthly payments into one. Make sure to do research to see what options work best for you.

### **Revisit Your Insurance Policies**

Review your current life, homeowner's (or renter's) and car insurance policies. Confirm firm that your life insurance beneficiary designations are current and your coverage levels still apply in regards to yourself, home, and car. If you're unsure about your life insurance coverage or your needs have changed, call your financial professional today to schedule a review.

### **Evaluate 401(k) Allocations**

Financial planners agree that people planning for retirement make two mistakes: They either invest ultra-conservatively because they are afraid of the volatility in the market, or they invest too aggressively in the hopes of making up for time or past losses. There are financial professionals that can help you establish your risk tolerance and the portfolio that best suits your needs.

### **Check Your Credit Report**

The Federal Trade Commission says

5% of consumers have credit report errors that could hurt them financially. A mistake can lower your credit, causing your loan rates to be higher or even resulting in the denial of an auto or home loan. You can get a free credit report annually from 3 of the credit bureaus at [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com).

### **Who Can Help Me?**

When it comes to cleaning up your debt and getting your assets in order, it's important to devise a plan. The aid of an experienced financial professional can be an invaluable resource. Please schedule an appointment with an SACU investments professional for further advice on your personal finances.

Schedule your complimentary appointment with a CFS investment representative at SACU by calling toll free 800-234-7228, extension 1442 today.

Investment Services offered through CFS\*

## Have you read...?

*Controlling your Financial Future: How to Increase Your Wealth, Decrease your Debt, and Manage your Cash Flow* by Betty Meredith

Please visit this source for more information:

<http://www.annualcreditreport.com>

# SACU

*Your Dream Is Our Mission...*

**At SACU, our CFS\* investment representatives are committed to providing products and services that help you and your family build your personal financial wealth and financial well being.**

**Interested in Learning More? Call 800-234-7228 ext. 1442 or ext. 1071.**