
CONTREN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS INC. FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER

TREMBLANT SEMINAR 2009



We are pleased to announce our fourth Permanence Of Change seminar will be held at Mt. Tremblant Feb 1/09 to Feb 4/09. We are very happy to welcome back Gerry Hass, portfolio manager at Raymond James, as our keynote facilitator.

We presently have the ability to add a couple of additional rooms to the package and would be thrilled to add a few more participants to this action packed, all inclusive package. Please contact Debbie if you are interested in attending.

STATUTORY (PUBLIC) HOLIDAYS



Please note that Labour Day, September 1, 2008, is a Public Holiday in Ontario.

A reminder that Remembrance Day, November 11, is **not** a Public Holiday.

If your employee works any Public Holiday they are entitled to either 2.5 times their regular pay **or** 1.5 times their regular pay **plus** a day off with pay.

Part time employee's Public Holiday pay is calculated as follows: the number of hours worked in the preceeding four weeks to the holiday **divided** by 20.

NEW DEBIT (CHIP) CARDS

There has been a considerable amount of discussion lately about the new CHIP card program in Canada. After a somewhat successful launch in the Kitchener-Waterloo area Interac has decided to proceed with implementation across Canada.

The CHIP card works exactly the same as the existing Debit card in use today. The difference is that the card itself is embedded with a computer chip on the front. This computer chip is the access point for all machine readers. The reason for the switch away from the magnetic stripe is the computer chip provides a much higher level of security and will reduce fraud. CHIP card users will still be required, in a variety of situations, to enter their PIN when using the card.

All ABM's and Point Of Sale terminals will need to be converted in order to accept the new CHIP cards. The updated deadline for conversion of ABM's, as published by Interac, is December 31, 2012. Point Of Sale service providers, both small and large, are pressuring POS merchants to upgrade their hardware right now. We have also heard stories of service providers trying to sell their existing hardware to merchants, at a substantial "savings".



Our recommendation is to wait another two to three years before deciding on new hardware. It will likely take two plus years to have everyone in Canada issued an updated CHIP card to replace their existing debit card. During this time frame there may be one or more upgrades to the CHIP enabled hardware and, as with all new technology, it is better to let someone else work out the start up problems.

RRSP CONTRIBUTIONS

With the recent decline (freefall?) in the North American stock market and some stocks nearing historical lows you may want to contribute to your 2008 RRSP now instead of waiting until the end of February 2009.

Your RRSP eligibility is determined by your *earned* income and any amount not utilized within the current taxation year will be added to any previous eligibility. Your RRSP eligibility is carried forward without an expiration date.

The government has increased the 2009 maximum earned RRSP eligibility (\$21,000) and the 2010 maximum earned RRSP eligibility (\$22,000). To qualify for the maximum eligibility you will need to report earned income of \$116,666 in 2008 and \$122,222 in 2009.

Please contact the office to discuss your personal RRSP plan for the 2008 taxation year.