### **Creating the Optimal DC Journey Plan**

#### **Towers Watson Network**



September 2010



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#### **Today's discussion**

- Highlights from our most recent surveys concerning retirement issues in Canada:
  - Global Workforce Study
  - Canadian 2010 CAP Survey
- Thoughts on DC Journey Planning and implications for:
  - Governance
  - Communication, Member Decision Support Tools and Engagement
- Table Discussion

#### **2010 Global Workforce Study: Key retirement themes**

- I want job security, stability and good pay/benefits but I see the safety net eroding.
  - Traditional employment relationships are becoming more contingent, and employees crave a return to the fundamentals
- I know I'm responsible for my own financial well-being, career, performance and health — but I'm not sure I can handle it.
  - Employees know that it's increasingly "on them" to take care of themselves
  - They are not confident they have the knowledge and resources to handle the responsibility

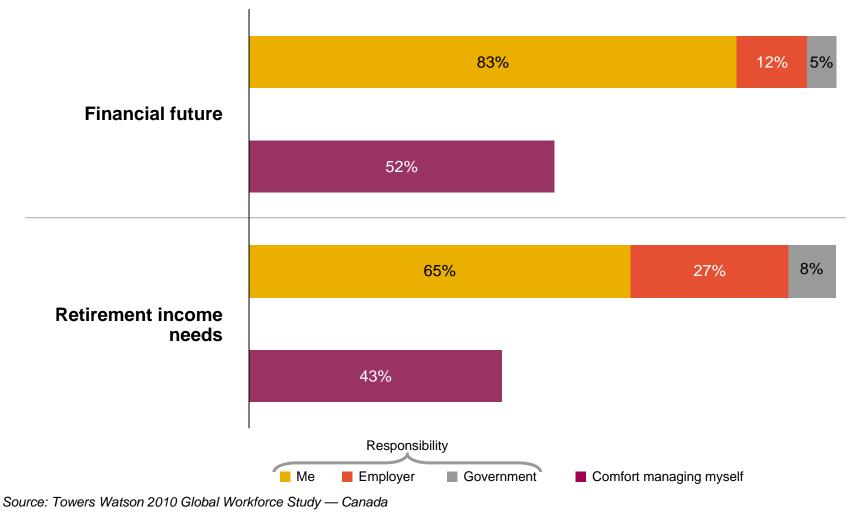
## Attraction drivers remain focused on the basics — but there is now more interest in the long-haul, including retirement security

Attraction Drivers	2008	2010
Competitive base pay	1	1
Vacation/paid time off	2	2
Competitive health care benefits	3	3
Career advancement opportunities	5	4
Competitive retirement benefits	-	5
Convenient work location	7	6
Flexible schedule	6	7
Challenging work	4	8
Learning and development opportunities	8	9
Organization's reputation as a good employer	9	10
Reasonable workload	10	-

Source: Towers Watson 2008, 2010 Global Workforce Study - Canada

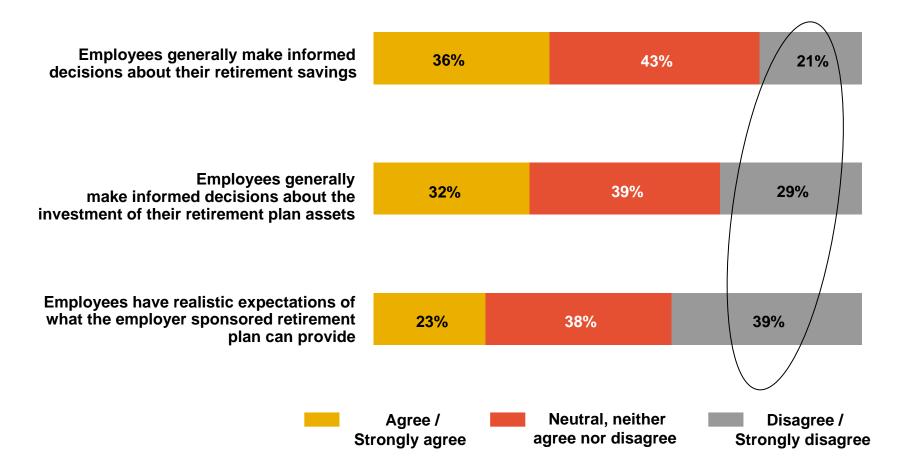
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# While employees know they're responsible for their financial security, they doubt their ability to manage alone



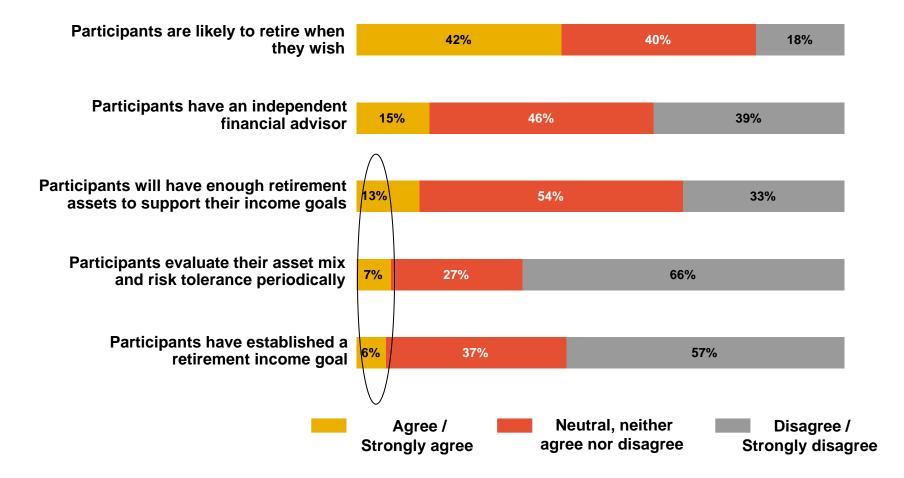
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# Canadian employers share the same sentiments as employees



Source: Towers Watson 2010 Canadian Capital Accumulation Plan Sponsor Survey

# Few plan sponsors have confidence in their employees' readiness for retirement in the future



Source: Towers Watson 2010 Canadian Capital Accumulation Plan Sponsor Survey

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### **Sponsors' biggest concern for the future**

Inadequate retirement income from DC for large segments of their population

Source: Towers Watson 2010 Canadian Capital Accumulation Plan Sponsor Survey

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#### Journey well, arrive better

Understanding Journey Planning from a DC perspective



#### A more engaging approach to savings is needed

#### Traditional Approach

- Members focus on the "here and now"
- Saving what they can, when they can
- Hoping it will deliver a good outcome
- Little thought given to what they need
  - ... or their ability to take investment risk
  - ... or how their circumstances will change over time
- Decisions made at joining are rarely changed; monitoring of progress to a retirement goal not obvious

#### A low engagement environment

#### A More Focused Approach

- Members set their objectives (using some 'simple' tools)
  - ... and how they are going to achieve them
- Recognising what they want to achieve
  - ... their ability to take investment risk
  - ... and how their circumstances are likely to change over time
- Regular progress against target is monitored, not just as retirement age approaches

#### A higher engagement environment

## Florida = ? km

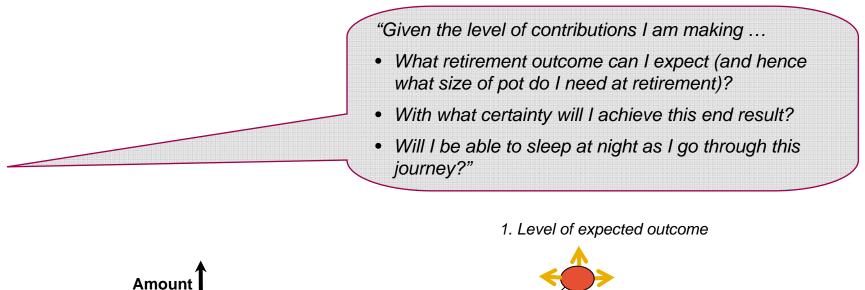
- How long will it take to drive to Florida?
- What time do I want to be there?
- How important is it that I arrive on time?
- When is the latest I must be there by?

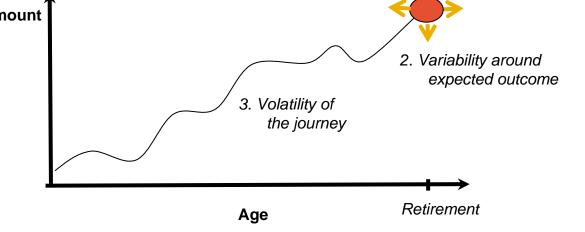


- If I am running late, can I afford to get caught speeding?
- Does my passenger get car sick?

#### What if 'Florida' is the retirement target ?

#### The member's objective

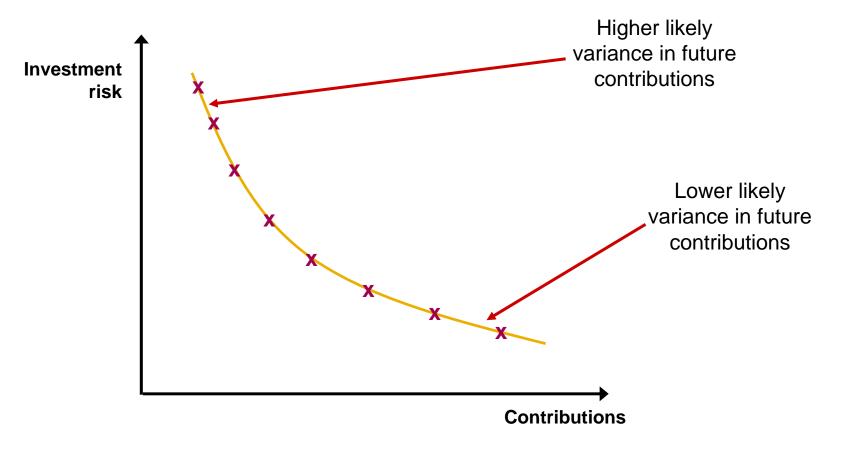




#### Members need to set their objectives and create a journey plan

#### **Balancing contributions and risk**

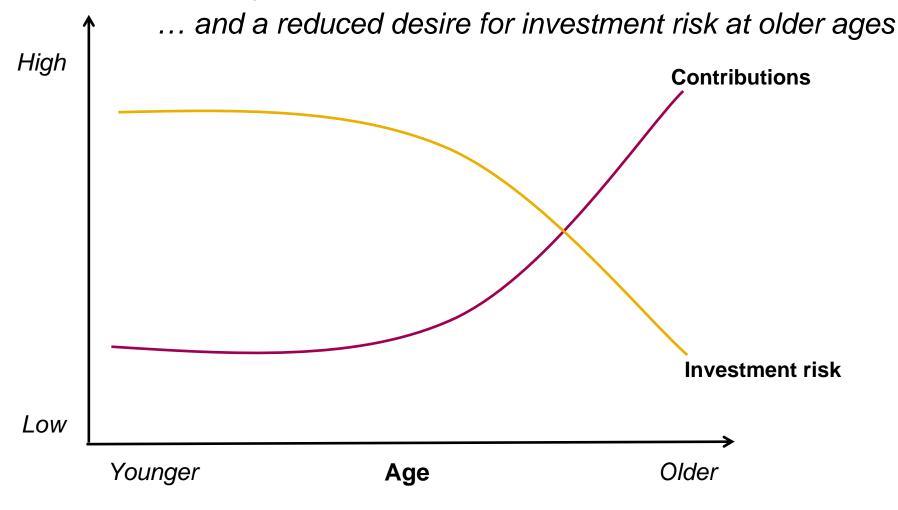
There are many potential journey plans to achieve the same target outcome — involving a trade-off between contribution rates and asset allocation



### **Contribution/risk trade-off**

Example member A

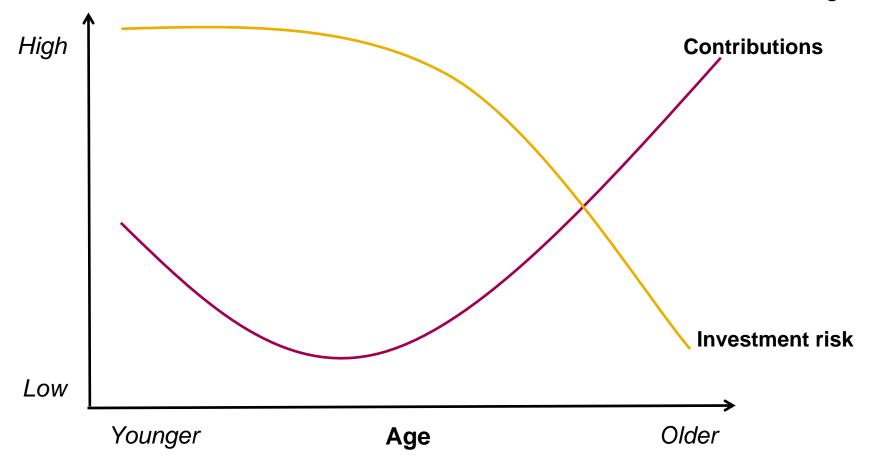
Steadily increasing ability to contribute ...



### **Contribution/risk trade-off**

Example member B

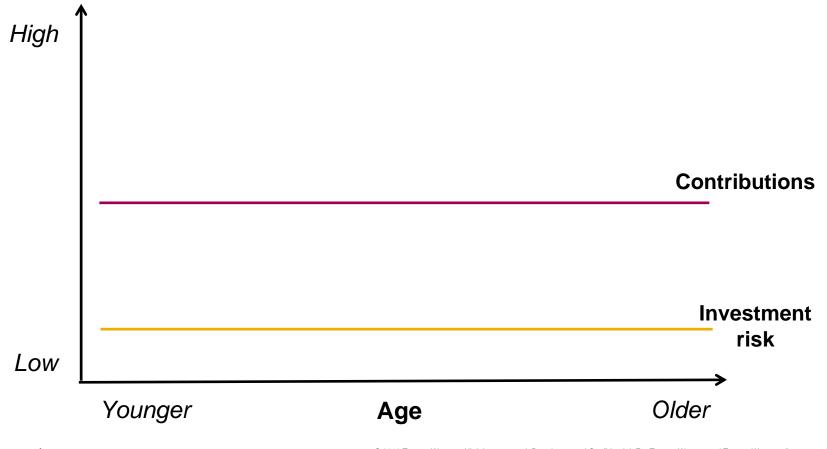
Higher savings early, recognising future cost of raising a family ... ... and a reduced desire for investment risk at older ages



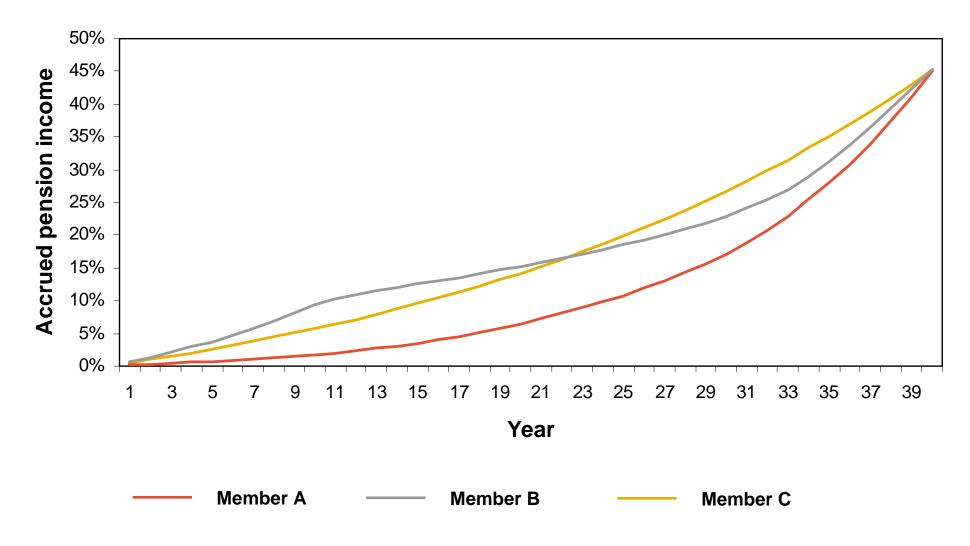
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#### **Contribution/risk trade-off** *Example member C*

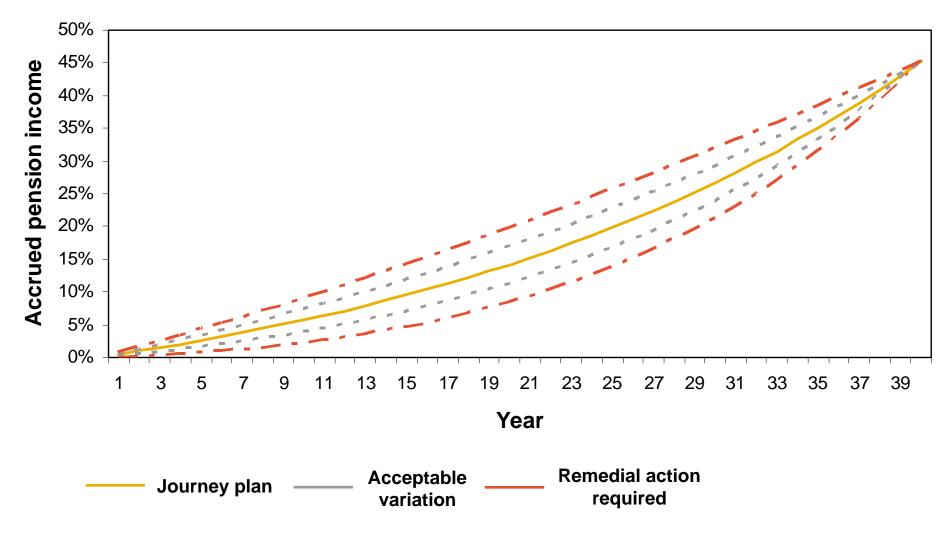
Constant ability to contribute, not expecting real career progression ... ... little ability to take any investment risk



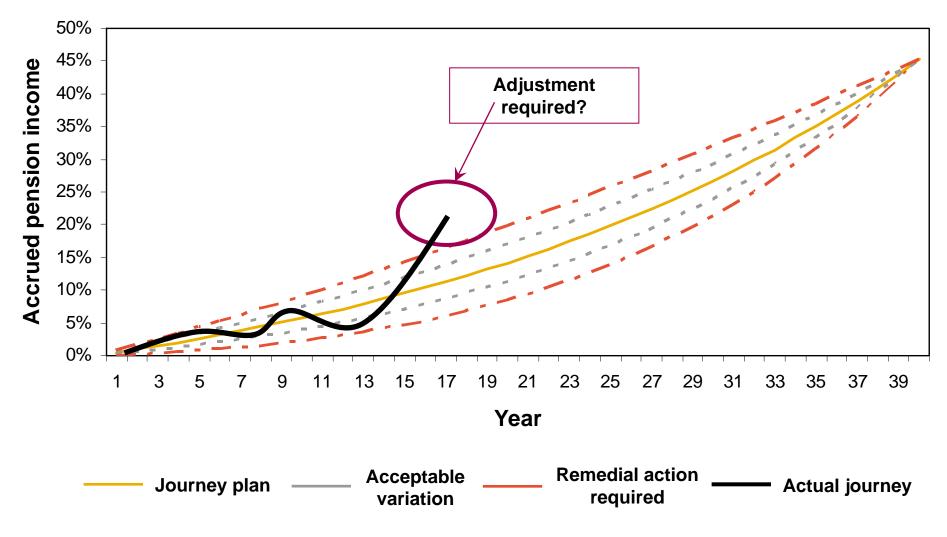
#### Charting the journey plan



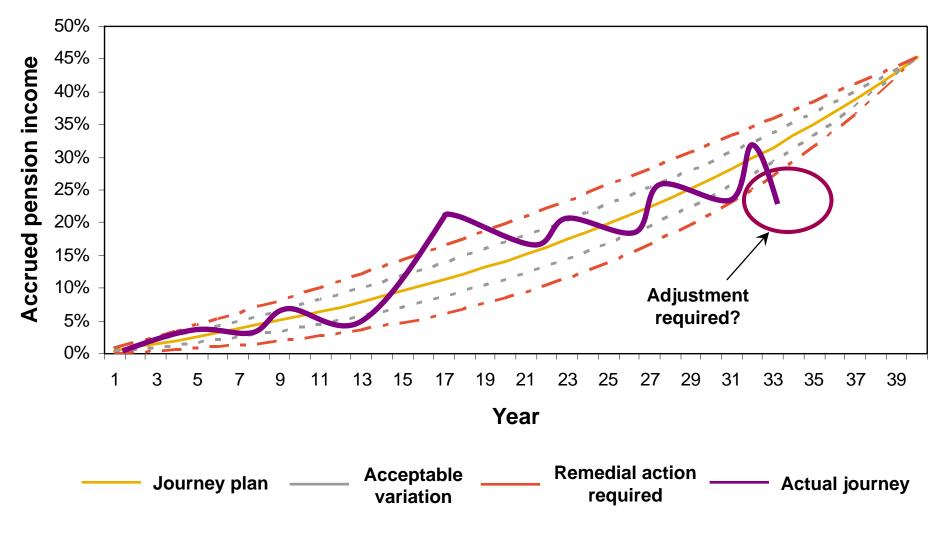
## Tolerance around the journey plan: the "sleep at night" factor



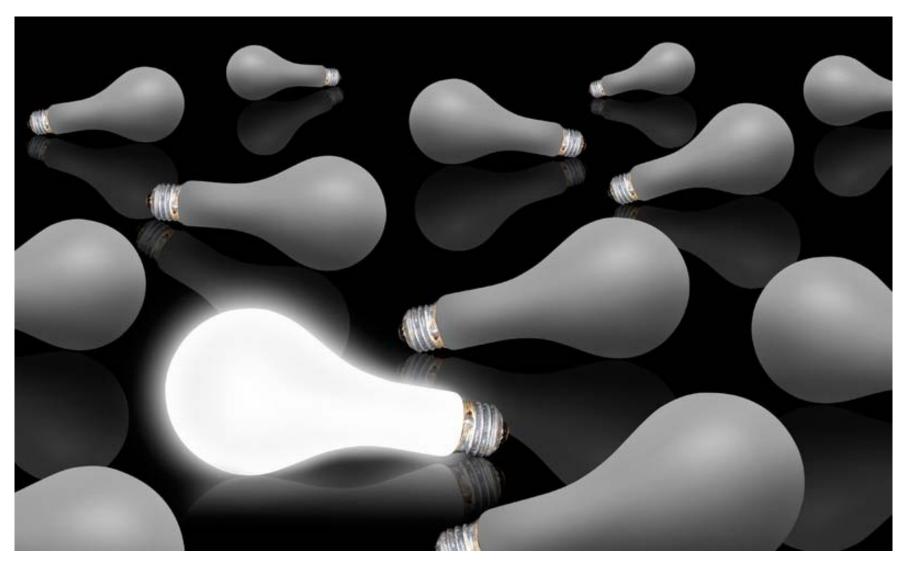
#### Measuring progress against the journey plan



#### Measuring progress against the journey plan



#### **Reactions?**



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### **Understanding your membership**

Value Added Governance



#### What might governance involve?

## Operational governance

Ensuring the plan 'works'

#### For example

- Contributions are paid on time
- Service levels are met
- Benefit statements are sent out on time
- Investment managers deliver expected performance
- etc...

# Largely driven by legislation and risk mitigation

### Value-added governance

Helping members get the most from their plan For example

- Engaging members in the plan
- Helping members understand
- Seeking to improve investment efficiency in the default fund
- Outperforming investment returns
- etc...

#### Where governance can improve the deal

#### **Know your employees**

- Analyze your data
  - Demographic characteristics
  - Behavioural characteristics
- Research behaviours, motivations, attitudes toward risk and needs
  - Online polls
  - Telephone surveys
  - Video interviews
- Regularly review membership data
  - Build into governance reporting

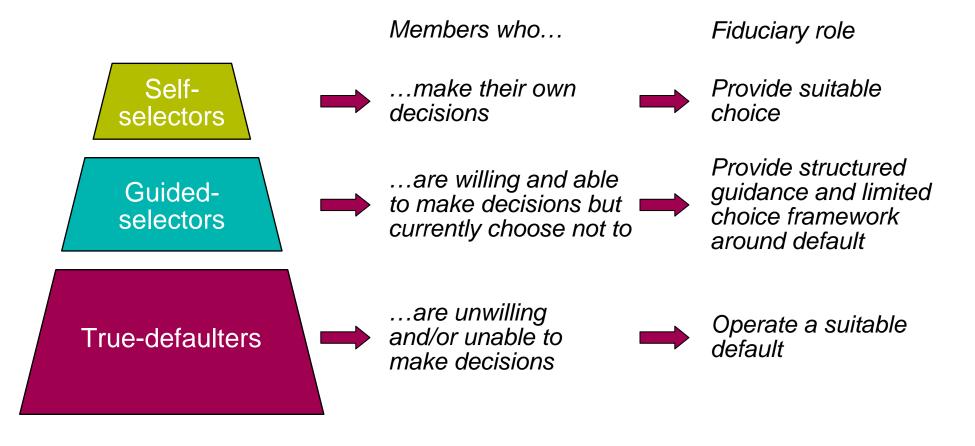
#### **Understanding your membership**

- What do members look like?
  - For example age, earnings, likely target pension needs?
- What do members want in terms of investment risk?
- How much choice do members want...
  - ...and are they likely to use it?
- How much guidance do they need?

A greater understanding of the member will lead to better DC

#### An investment and engagement strategy should start here

#### **Three types of member**

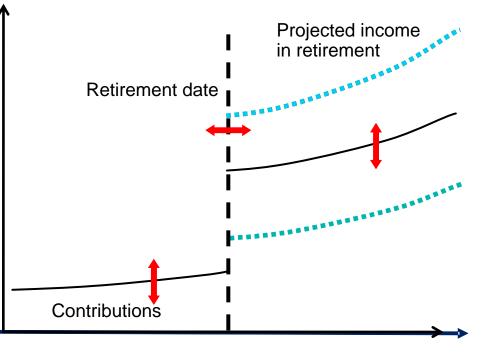


## Need to explicitly address the differing needs of these three types of member

### **Defining and managing risk**

- Members care about...
  - Level of outcome
  - Variability of outcome
  - Volatility of journey
- 'Risk' = probability of not achieving objectives

Levers to deal with investment risk



Ability to take risk is driven by member's flexibility around savings, retirement age and income

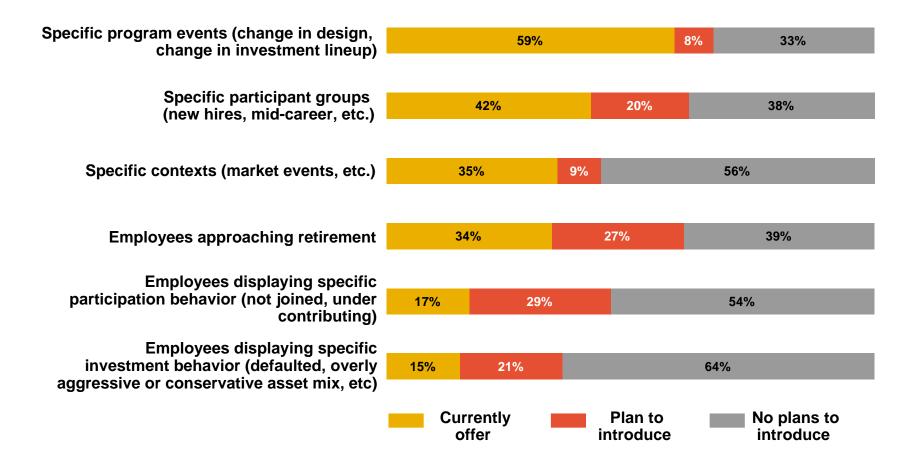
#### Understanding your membership's tolerance to risk

Tolerance to risk = **Attitude** to risk + **Ability** to take risk



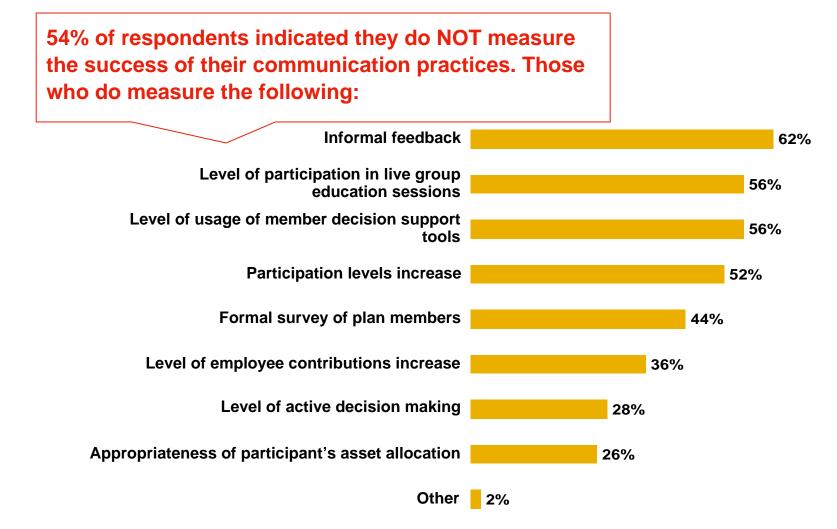
## A plan's core data can be used to model the membership's risk tolerance and choice distribution

#### **Communications practices — targeted purpose**



Source: Towers Watson 2010 Canadian Capital Accumulation Plan Sponsor Survey

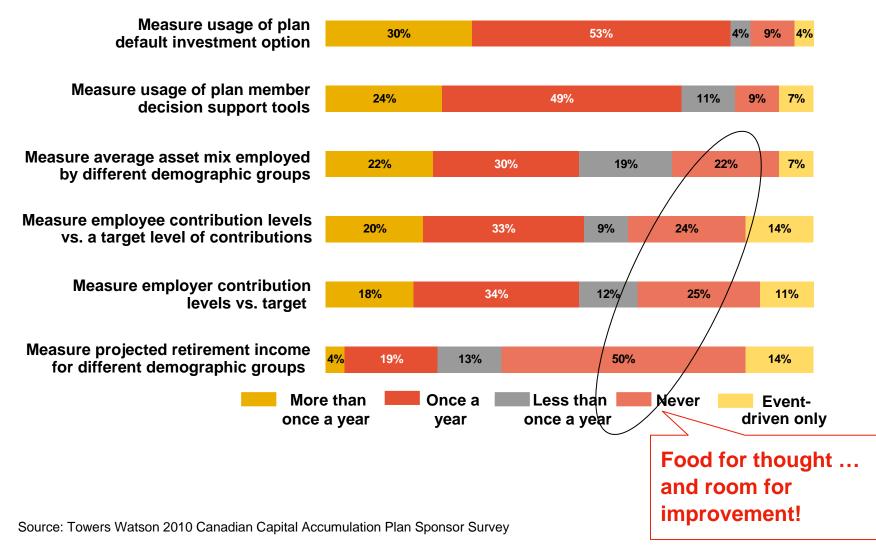
#### **Plan member communication — measuring success**



Source: Towers Watson 2010 Canadian Capital Accumulation Plan Sponsor Survey

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#### **CAP** governance — monitoring plan effectiveness



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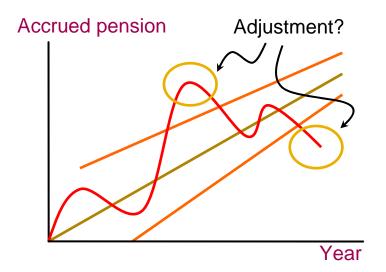
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#### Conclusions

- Understanding of the membership should drive investment and engagement
- There needs to be more of an 'outcome' focus, rather than the 'here and now'
- Ability to take risk is driven by a member's flexibility regarding savings, retirement age and income
- DC can be viewed as similar to 'one-person DB'
- Members and fiduciaries should adopt a 'journey plan' approach

#### A DC Journey Planning approach helps members to...

- 1. Set objectives and create a 'journey plan'
  - Perhaps using some simple online tools
- 2. Regularly monitor progress against the journey plan
  - Perhaps presenting it on the annual statement as well as making it available online



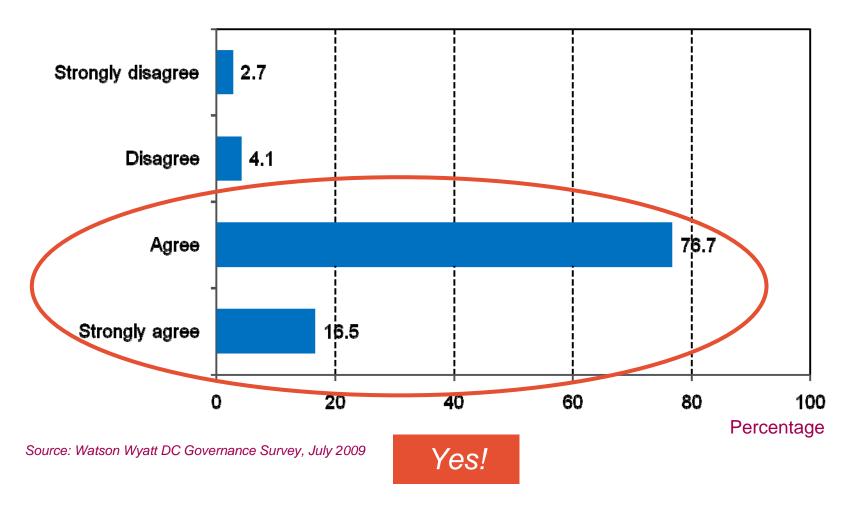
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#### **For discussion**

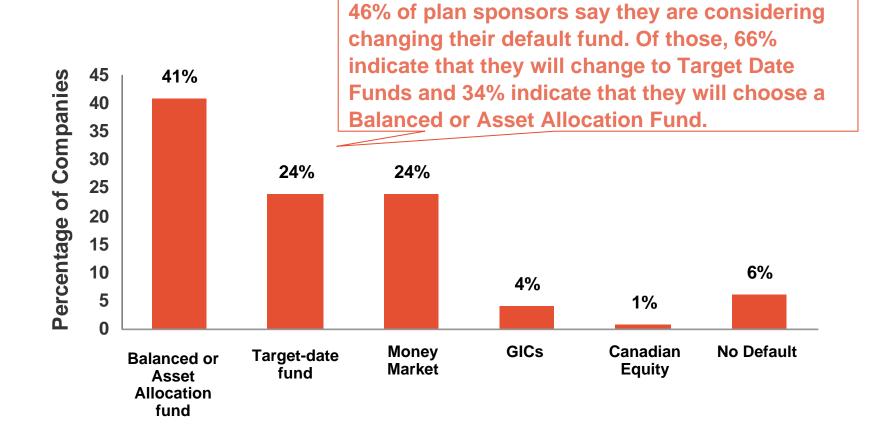
- Can good governance add value to members' income in retirement?
- What are the best measures of success for a communication strategy?
  Which are you using in your plan?
- Are we communicating the right thing?
- Does one investment structure fit all?
- What is the best default...
  - For enrolment in the plan?
  - For contribution levels?
  - For investment?
- Are generic financial calculators and modelling tools enough? How could we help members better chart their journey?

#### Can good governance add value?

Good DC plan governance can add value to members' income in retirement

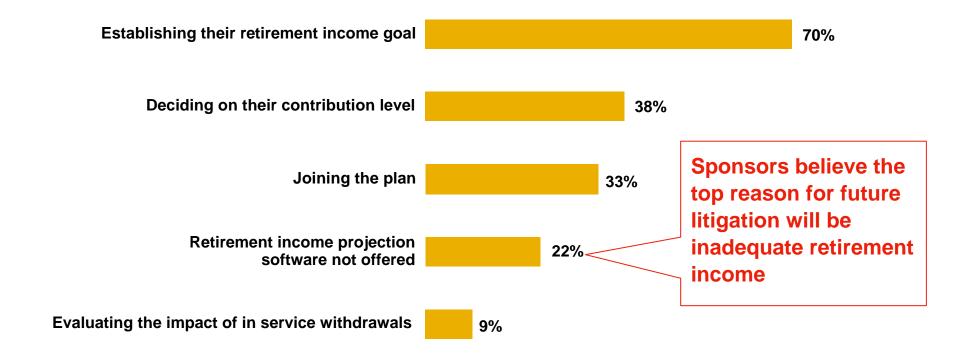


#### **Default investment option**



#### **Member decision support**

#### Do you offer retirement income projection software to assist members in making decisions with respect to:



#### **Questions?**



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