

ADVICE FOR LIFE



**PLUS
STEPS TO
CONSIDER WHEN
RETIREMENT
PLANNING**

Market Watch



Your Mortgage Renewal - Make your Next Term Work for You



Supporting the Next Generation on their path to Homeownership



MARKET WATCH

The Bank of Canada held its target overnight rate steady over its past two announcements, most recently on January 28, 2026. The Bank continues to balance a slowing economy affected by tariff and trade challenges—particularly with the U.S.—against ongoing inflationary pressures tied to rising costs for certain goods and services. The next Bank of Canada interest rate announcement is scheduled for March 18.

According to the Consumer Price Index, inflation rose 2.4% year-over-year in December 2025, up from 2.2% in November. This increase was largely driven by higher costs for restaurant meals and toys, hobbies, and certain games. It was also influenced by the expiration of the federal government's temporary GST/HST tax break, while lower gasoline prices helped moderate overall price growth.¹

Canada's unemployment rate rose to 6.8% in December from 6.5% in November as more people entered the job market. Canadians aged 55 and over saw the strongest gains, adding 33,000 jobs, while youth aged 15 to 24 experienced the largest decline, with 27,000 fewer jobs. Healthcare and social assistance led job gains, while professional, scientific, and technical services saw the largest losses.²

In the securities markets, investors continued to monitor global trade issues and geopolitical uncertainty. Despite these concerns, markets extended their upward trend. The S&P/TSX Composite Index rose 6.3% in the final quarter of 2025, supported in part by strong gold prices, which reached record high levels. U.S. equity markets also posted gains amid solid corporate earnings and indications that interest rates may continue to decline. Bond markets finished the year higher as well, reflecting expectations that inflation pressures may be easing.

Ontario home sales were down 1.9% compared to December 2024, with the Greater Golden Horseshoe region of Ontario experiencing one of the most notable decreases in home prices³. In the Greater Toronto Area, prices were down by 5.6% in December year-over-year. While housing starts rose nationally in December, Toronto recorded one of the largest year-over-year declines⁴, reflecting continued softness in local new residential construction.

As market conditions continue to evolve, professional guidance can help ensure your overall financial plan remains aligned with your long-term goals. An **Alterna Advisor** can provide the support and expertise you need—don't hesitate to reach out.

Growing stronger, together

We're thrilled to announce that as of January 1, 2026, Tandia Financial has officially joined the Alterna family as Tandia Financial, a division of Alterna Savings.

In time, this partnership will allow us to offer you:

More choice and convenience with access to our **expanded branch network** across Ontario

Better digital tools, as we combine our strengths to invest in the online and mobile banking experiences you rely on

A **wider range of products**, offering more competitive rates and financial services tailored to your goals

As we thoughtfully integrate our teams and services, your day-to-day banking remains unchanged. You'll continue to receive the same excellent service and support from the familiar faces you trust.

Have questions? We're here to help. Email us at **TogetherWeGrow@alterna.ca** or speak with our team at your local branch or contact centre.

SAVE THE DATE



February 18: Savings and Investment Accounts Webinar with Deepika Gupta, Wealth Banker **[Register Now](#)**

Register for our upcoming Advice for Life Webinars **[Register Now](#)**

1. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/260119/dq260119a-eng.htm>

2. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/260109/dq260109a-eng.htm?indid=3587-2&indgeo=03>

3. <https://stats.crea.ca/en-CA/>

4. <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/housing-markets-data-and-research/housing-data/data-tables/housing-market-data/monthly-housing-starts-construction-data-tables>

Your Mortgage Renewal — Make your Next term Work for You

If your mortgage is coming up for renewal, you may be feeling uncertain about what comes next. Many homeowners are in the same position—renewing at higher rates after the unusually low COVID era terms. While that shift can feel overwhelming, a renewal can also be a powerful opportunity to reassess your needs and choose a mortgage that supports your goals.



Start early and explore your options.

When you receive a renewal offer, it's tempting to accept it quickly. But renewing automatically can mean missing out on better rates or more flexible options. Taking the time to compare products, review term lengths, and understand what each choice means for your monthly payments ensures you're making a decision that fits your financial wellbeing. Starting early gives you the space to consider what's right for you.

Make sure your mortgage evolves with you.

Life doesn't look the same as it did when you first signed your mortgage, and your mortgage shouldn't stay static either. Think about how your needs may have shifted:

- Are you ok with the risk of interest rates rising or do you want predictability?
- Do you need more flexibility to make lump sum payments?
- Would adjusting your amortization create more breathing room?

- Does today's rate environment change your comfort level?

Aligning your mortgage with your current and future goals ensures your next term supports your financial stability—not just your lender's timelines.

Why more homeowners are choosing to switch to us at renewal.

Renewing your mortgage is an important financial decision, and it's the perfect opportunity to compare your choices. By switching to Alterna you'll benefit from transparent advice, competitive rates, flexible options, and a team focused on helping you find the right fit, not just the fastest solution. It's part of our commitment to delivering "The Good in Banking®" in every member experience.

Let's find the right renewal option together.

If your mortgage renewal is approaching or you are just getting into the home market, now is a great time to understand your options.



Book an appointment with one of our mortgage specialists:
[Book Here](#) or call **1.877.560.0100**.

STAY UPDATED WITH REAL-TIME RATES

Rates frequently change.
Scan with your phone camera to stay updated on our featured promotional rates on mortgages, term deposits and more.



In 2026, approximately 1.15 million Canadian mortgages are set to renew. Numerous mortgage holders are experiencing payment increases ranging from **15% to 20%**, with some facing instances where payments have doubled or even tripled.*

*Financial Stability Report—2025 - Bank of Canada



Supporting the Next Generation on their path to Homeownership

For many families, an especially meaningful part of financial planning is helping children or grandchildren take their first steps toward homeownership. Thoughtful planning can make a significant difference — while still keeping your own long-term goals on track.

Start with open conversations.

Begin by discussing what your loved ones hope to achieve. Unsure about affordability or the right neighbourhood? Clear, early conversations help everyone understand expectations and timelines.

Consider the role of investing.

If you'd like to help in the future, setting aside investment funds can be a practical way to prepare. You can contribute to your own savings or provide funds for your child or grandchild to deposit into their TFSA or FHSA. Building resources over time gives you flexibility when the moment comes to support a down payment or closing costs.

Explore different ways to help.

Family support can take many forms. You may choose to gift funds, provide a loan, or contribute to specific expenses. Some families consider co-signing or guaranteeing part of the mortgage. It's important to choose an approach that fits your own plans and comfort level.

Protect your own financial wellbeing

The strongest support you can offer comes from a solid financial foundation. Ensuring your retirement and investment plans remain healthy allows you to help confidently and sustainably.

Steps to Consider When Retirement Planning

Planning for tomorrow starts with a clear picture of the life you want to enjoy — and the confidence that your finances can support it. As Canadians live longer and look ahead to more active retirement years, it's important to build a plan that reflects both your lifestyle goals and how those needs may shift over time.

1. Start with your timeline

Think about the age you'd like to retire and how your needs may evolve. Retirement often lasts longer than people expect, and mapping out your timeline helps you stay prepared as life changes.

2. Plan for rising costs

Even modest increases in everyday expenses can affect long-term wellbeing. Building flexibility into your investment and income strategy helps ensure your lifestyle stays comfortable as the cost of living grows.

3. Understand your income needs

Consider what your day-to-day retirement will look like, from housing to travel to healthcare. Many retirees also reassess their living situation, exploring options such as downsizing or moving closer to family to create more financial breathing room.

4. Make the most of registered plans

RRSPs and TFSAs remain core tools for building and protecting retirement income. Each plays a different role, and using both strategically can help support the retirement you want.

5. Check in regularly

Your plan should evolve with you. Reviewing it every few years, or after major life changes, keeps you on track.

Your future deserves a plan that lasts.

Book your appointment with an Alterna Advisor today!

[Book Here](#) or call **1.877.560.0100**.

Our advisors are ready to help you turn your goals into a clear plan.

Schedule your appointment [HERE](#) or call: **1.877.560.0100**

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