

Canada's Investment Industry Faces



Edward Ma

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How long have you worked in the industry?

I have worked with Odium Brown since March 2002. Before that, I worked in various other industries such as paper making, IT outsourcing and insurance.

Please tell us about any volunteer activities you may be involved in.

I volunteered with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. in the past for their summer day camps and the Walk with the Dragon fundraiser.

Please tell us a bit about your average day in the office.

I start my day by reviewing the help desk tickets and emails to identify any urgent/scheduled tasks. After that, I allocate time to various projects, security patches, and maintenance work. As well, there are many opportunities to work with my colleagues to discuss and troubleshoot issues.

What drove your interest to work in the investment industry?

It was a coincidence that I joined an investment company, as my role with Odium Brown is in IT. After working with the Firm for 3 years though, I can see why it is such an attractive industry to be in.

Do you find the work you do satisfying? If yes, why?

The work is very satisfying in several areas. I find myself constantly learning on the job, so it is rare that I feel the work is repetitive. There is always something new to learn and share. Also, there is a sense of ownership.

My coworkers and I share a similar vision and drive to perform to the best to our abilities. They boost team morale and productivity to align all with a common goal: i.e. to provide maximum availability to systems critical to the company's daily operations.

How do you see the industry helping investors and the Canadian economy as a whole?

Financial responsibility was not something I was taught in school. The knowledge was mostly passed on by my parents, which encouraged saving at a young age. Having investment professionals providing sound advice to ensure a sustainable financial future is very important and goes beyond saving, especially for younger clients.

Would you recommend a career in the investment industry to a young Canadian considering his/her career options?" If yes, why?

Yes. If a young Canadian enjoys working in a dynamic environment and interacting with people from diverse backgrounds, the investment industry is certainly appealing.