power of compounding diminishes and the window of recovery narrows. The chart above illustrates the impact of delayed savings on long-term wealth accumulation, showing how a decade's delay can reduce retirement assets by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Yet the core challenge is simply not a matter of saving more. It is a matter of structure, discipline and process. Retirement planning requires a shift in your mindset from accumulation to decumulation. It is a shift from building wealth to deploying it in a way that balances income needs, longevity risk, tax efficiency, and legacy goals.

This shift is both technical and psychological. It demands a clear understanding of how much you can safely withdraw, how to position assets for tax efficiency, and how to maintain emotional discipline when markets test your resolve.

For affluent Canadians, the stakes are higher. You have more to protect, more complexity to manage, and often more people depending on the outcomes of your financial decisions. The question is not whether you have saved enough; it is whether you have structured your wealth to support a lifetime of goals, whether the plan can adapt to changing conditions, and whether it can withstand the inevitable volatility that comes with multi-decade time horizons.