

MEMBER RETIREMENT SERVICES

Understanding All The Basics

RRSP | RRIF | ANNUITY | LIF | LRIF



This Understanding All The Basics booklet (this “publication”) is provided to you courtesy of a credit union. It is written in everyday language – answering to the need expressed by many credit union members for clear and understandable information on RRSPs and retirement income options available to them.

This issue of Understanding All The Basics is based on the legislation in effect or proposed as of July, 2015. You should not act (or refrain from acting) based upon information in this publication without obtaining professional advice regarding your particular facts and circumstances.

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For further information, you may contact the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) or refer to its T4040 RRSPs and Other Registered Plans for Retirement guide.

What's New?

Changes to RRIF Minimum Withdrawal Amounts

The 2015 federal budget included a reduction of the amount the annuitant is required to withdraw each year from their RRIF contract. The RRIF minimum withdrawal factors were adjusted for annuitants ages 71 to 94.

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RRSP

What is an RRSP?

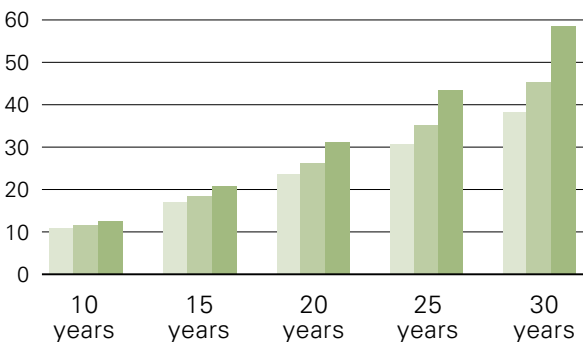
A Registered Retirement Savings Plan is a government approved plan through which you save money for your retirement years. Your contributions, within limits, are tax deductible, and the income earned is tax sheltered. You can have any number of plans.

What Does an RRSP Mean to You?

You are investing money when you can most afford it during your peak earning years – to build up a comfortable retirement fund.

The following graph shows the amount you could accumulate by annual RRSP contributions of \$1,000 at the beginning of each year, assuming constant interest rates of 1.5%, 2.5% and 4% p. a.

Value (thousands of dollars)



Assumed compound interest rate:

1.5% p.a. 2.5% p.a. 4% p.a.

Not only do you invest some money that would otherwise be paid in taxes, but the earnings of your plan are not taxed until you withdraw them. Since 100% of these earnings can be reinvested and compounded, the growth of your RRSP increases rapidly over the years, as the above graph shows.

Your retirement savings will also increase significantly if you make each RRSP contribution as soon as allowed, for example, early in the year.

What Happens at Retirement?

The first stage of an RRSP is to accumulate retirement savings. The next stage is to provide retirement income. Your accumulated savings may be invested in a variety of options to provide a retirement income which can continue for life or to age 90. Only the retirement income payments are taxed each year as you receive them, thus spreading the taxation of your accumulated savings over your retirement years.

Who is Eligible to Contribute?

Anyone with “earned income” subject to Canadian taxation, including non-residents, may contribute to an RRSP. Even if you are not taxable, you should file a tax return to report your earned income and create RRSP deduction room.

You can make part or all of any contribution to a plan in your spouse’s or common-law partner’s name. You, as the contributor, are still entitled to the tax deduction. Contributions can be made until the end of the year in which the planholder’s 71st birthday occurs. **An over-contribution (see page 9) can be carried forward beyond this year and deducted in subsequent years providing you have earned income on which to base the deduction.**

Definitions of Spouse/Common-law Partner

Income tax legislation defines the term “spouse” to be a person who is party to a legal marriage.

The term ‘common-law partner’ is defined as two persons, regardless of sex, who cohabit in a conjugal relationship and who have cohabited throughout the 12 month period that ends at that time. This period can be less than 12 months if both partners are the natural or adoptive parents of the same child, or if one common-law partner has a child who is wholly dependent on the other for support and over whom the other has custody.

The term “common-law partner” does not apply if at the particular time the individuals were separated for 90 days or more due to a breakdown of the conjugal relationship.

What is Earned Income?

Your RRSP deduction is based on your prior year's earned income. The following qualify as earned income:

- salary, wages, bonuses and taxable benefits (minus union or professional dues and employment expenses claimed as deductions)
- taxable wage loss replacement or long-term disability income resulting from employment
- Canada Pension Plan disability benefits
- amounts received under the *Wage Earner Protection Program Act*
- net income from self-employment (minus current year business losses)
- net rental income from real estate (minus current year rental losses)
- taxable alimony or maintenance payments received
- royalties of an author or inventor
- net research grants
- income that is contributed to an Amateur Athlete Trust

NOTES:

1. *Earned income must be reduced by deductible alimony or maintenance payments.*
2. *Interest, dividend, capital gains income, and E.I. benefits, do not qualify as earned income.*
3. *Income which is not taxed, such as Workers' Compensation and welfare benefits, cannot be used as earned income.*

A worksheet is provided on page 38 of this booklet to assist you in calculating your earned income. CRA also provides a form for the calculation of earned income in its Guide T4040 RRSPs and Other Registered Plans for Retirement.

RRSP Deduction Limits

Your Notice of Assessment from CRA, received after filing your tax return, will state your RRSP deduction limit for the following year. At certain times of the year, you can also phone the CRA Tax Information Phone Service 1.800.267.6999 (TIPS) to confirm your deduction limit. The calculation of the amount will depend on whether you are a member of a pension plan, and if you are, the type of pension plan.

Your RRSP deduction limit (preceding paragraph) does not include special transfers to your RRSP (see page 5).

NOTE: The amount of RRSP contributions you can deduct from your income ("RRSP deduction limit") may be less than the amount you can contribute (see Over-contributions, page 9). Employer contributions made to an RRSP on your behalf form part of your RRSP contribution.

The worksheet on page 38 of this booklet may enable you to calculate your RRSP deduction limit.

CAUTION: Before making any RRSP deduction, make sure you will still be fully utilizing your available tax credits for the year.

Maximum Deduction

The maximum RRSP contribution you may deduct for the current year is:

- 18% of your earned income for the prior year, up to the maximum amount for the current year; MINUS Your "Pension Adjustment" (PA)* for the prior year and "Past Service Pension Adjustment" (PSPA)** PLUS Your "Pension Adjustment Reversal"(PAR)***

The present amounts are:

		Earned Income (in prior year) for maximum
2013	\$23,820	\$132,333
2014	\$24,270	\$134,833
2015	\$24,930	\$138,500
2016	\$25,370	\$140,944

After 2016, this amount will be indexed by the average increase in industrial wages as published by Statistics Canada.

* Your PA for the prior year should be on your T4 slips for that year. It reflects the value of future benefits arising from membership in a registered pension plan (RPP) or deferred profit sharing plan (DPSP). If you were not a member of a RPP or DPSP in the prior year, your PA is zero. If you were a member of a "money purchase" RPP or a DPSP, the PA is the total contributions to the RPP or DPSP in respect to the prior year by you, or on your behalf by your employer, union, etc. If you were a member of a "defined benefit" RPP, the PA is determined by a complex formula. You may wish to ask your employer how it is calculated.

** "Uncertified PSPA", or an upgrade to a pension plan, affects RRSP deduction limits for the following year. "Certified PSPA", or a pension buyback for an individual, affects the year of buyback or the year the information is sent to CRA.

*** A Pension Adjustment Reversal (PAR) may arise if you are a member of a defined benefit RPP and the pension is not vested when you terminate your employment.

The greater the future benefits provided by your pension plan, the less you will be able to deduct as RRSP contributions. This addresses the main objective of the Retirement Savings legislation – to create equality in the tax-sheltered retirement benefits available to all taxpayers, regardless of their type of pension plan, or whether they are self-employed, or employed but have no pension plan.

Special Transfers to Your RRSP

In addition to your RRSP deduction limit, there are a number of special deposits you can make to your RRSPs.

Lump Sum Transfers

You can transfer lump sums DIRECTLY from a Registered Pension Plan or a Deferred Profit Sharing Plan (DPSP) to **your** RRSP.

You can transfer amounts DIRECTLY from another of your RRSPs (see page 15) or from your RRIF (see page 36) to your RRSP.

RRIF Payments in Excess of Minimum

Until the end of the calendar year in which you turn 71, you can transfer DIRECTLY to an RRSP in your **own name** up to 100% of any payment from your RRIF in excess of the mandatory minimum payment amount for the year. CRA form T2030 can be used for this purpose. The RRIF carrier must provide a T4RIF to report the amount transferred from your RRIF and the RRSP issuer must provide an Official Receipt for the amount transferred to your RRSP.

Retiring Allowances

A retiring allowance is a lump sum or sums paid to you by your employer, at or after your termination, in recognition of your loss of employment. Accumulated sick leave credits paid qualify under this definition, but holiday pay, death benefits and pension benefits do not. The portion of a retiring allowance eligible for sheltering in **your own** RRSP can either be transferred directly (no income tax deducted), or up to 100% can be contributed in the year of receipt or within 60 days thereafter.

The maximum retiring allowance which can be sheltered is:

- \$2,000 for each full or partial calendar year of service with your current employer prior to 1996, plus
- an additional \$1,500 for each full or partial calendar year of service prior to 1989 with your current employer, in which you were not a member of a pension plan or DPSP, or years for which your employer's contributions to such plans have not vested in you.

The transfer of a retiring allowance to an RRSP (within the above limit) does not affect your RRSP contribution room for that year. Amounts over the limit can be contributed/transferred to you or your spouse's RRSP; however, RRSP contribution room must be available.

RESP Accumulated Income

Provided the RESP subscriber has sufficient RRSP contribution room and is a Canadian resident, she/he can transfer up to \$50,000 of accumulated income from an RESP to an RRSP in the name of the subscriber or to a spousal RRSP in the name of the subscriber's spouse.

Any of the following conditions must be met:

- the RESP must have been in existence for at least 10* years and all beneficiaries of the Plan are deceased, or all living individuals who are or were beneficiaries under the RESP have attained the age of 21 years and are not pursuing post-secondary education, or
- the payment must be made in the 35th year following the year the Plan was entered into, or
- each individual who was a beneficiary under the Plan must be deceased when the payment is made.

Only amounts transferred within the subscribers RRSP deduction limit and deducted in that year will avoid taxation.

There is a special 20% surtax on excess accumulated income withdrawn by the subscriber.

* *The "10 year" and "age 21" rules may be waived in special circumstances.*

Contributing to RRSPs in Your Spouse's Name

NOTE: Throughout this booklet:

- *the term spouse can also be read as common-law partner (see definition on page 2)*
- *the term spouse in the locked-in pension information also includes other individuals who have been given similar rights under applicable pension legislation*
- *reference to spousal plan includes common-law partner plan*

Part or all of your RRSP deduction limit (see page 3) can be contributed to RRSPs for your spouse.

Any amounts you contribute to RRSPs for your spouse are subject to an attribution period. (See **Withdrawals from spousal RRSPs**, page 16.)

If one spouse will be in a higher tax bracket in retirement, as much of the RRSP funds as possible should be accumulated in the name of the spouse who will be in the lower bracket. The income eventually created from the funds will then be taxed at that spouse's lower tax rate.

To set up a spousal RRSP, your spouse applies for a plan in his or her name, even though your spouse may not have any earned income. Although you make the contributions to the plan, the assets of the plan belong to your spouse.

Even if you are over 71, you can contribute to an RRSP for your spouse until the end of the calendar year in which your spouse turns 71.

If your spouse also wishes to contribute to an RRSP based on his or her own income, a plan separate from the spousal plan is strongly recommended.

One final note – having RRSP funds in both spouses' names will ensure that both of you can qualify for the pension income credit by age 65 (see page 27).

Removal of Contributor Detail Following Breakdown of Marriage/Common-law Partnership

CRA will permit the removal of the contributor detail following relationship breakdown. You must request the removal of the contributor's name on your RRSP contract. In addition, you are required to provide written confirmation that:

- you are no longer living with the contributor due to relationship breakdown;
- there were no spousal contributions made to any spousal RRSP in the calendar year you are making the request, nor in the two immediately preceding calendar years; and
- you have not withdrawn funds from the particular RRSP in the current calendar year.

Carry Forward Unused Deduction Room

If you don't claim your maximum RRSP deduction, you can carry forward the unused deduction room indefinitely. This applies whether or not you actually make a contribution.

Your Notice of Assessment from CRA records any cumulative deduction room in determining your maximum RRSP deduction for the current year.

If you don't have the cash to contribute now, you can make larger catch-up contributions in future years when you have the cash available. But remember, you maximize your retirement savings by making each RRSP contribution as early as possible.

Carry Forward of Undeducted Contributions

If you have the cash to contribute now, but expect your income to be taxed at a higher rate in the future, you can contribute now and claim the deduction in a future year or years. This strategy is not penalized as an over-contribution as long as your contributions are within your deduction room. And it has the advantage of tax-sheltering the earnings on your contribution.

The official tax receipt should be filed with your tax return in the year of contribution, even if not deducted, and the amount reported on Schedule 7 of your tax return.

Contribution Deadline

You may contribute at any time during the year. Contributions made during the first 60 days of any year may be deducted for the current or the immediately preceding taxation year.

CRA has confirmed that if the last day of the 60-day period falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the deadline will be extended to the following Monday.

If you are contributing by mail, your application and/or deposit must be received by the plan issuer on or before the contribution deadline.

Over-contributions

Over-contributions are contributions that exceed your deduction room. An over-contribution of up to \$2,000 can be made by an individual who was 18 years of age or over in the prior year, and can be carried forward indefinitely.

If you make contributions which increase your over-contribution above \$2,000, you will pay a 1% penalty tax per month on the amount in excess of \$2,000.

Non-voluntary (normally employer) contributions to group RRSPs based on current earnings are not taken into account until after the end of the year in which they are made. At that time, your additional deduction room for the current year will reduce the excess.

Any excess contribution you cannot deduct may be refunded without additional taxation. You must receive a refund subject to the above penalty in the year you over-contributed, in the year the Notice of Assessment for that year is issued, or in the following year. However, if CRA can prove that at the time you made the contribution you had no reasonable prospect of being able to deduct it for that year or for the prior year, and that you made part or all of the contribution with the intent of withdrawing it tax-free, they can deem the refund of the over-contribution to be taxable to you. Therefore **you should not intentionally make an over-contribution unless you are sure you will be able to use it as your RRSP deduction in one or more future years, based on earned income.**

You can carry forward an over-contribution beyond the year in which you turn 71. You can deduct part or all of it in any subsequent year within your deduction limit.

Can You Borrow for an RRSP?

Yes, but you cannot deduct interest on money you borrow to contribute to an RRSP. You should not use an RRSP as security for a loan. If you do, there are tax consequences.

Official Receipt

After your RRSP contribution has been processed by the RRSP issuer, you will receive an official receipt. This must be reported with your tax return for that year even if you choose not to deduct it until a later year. Financial institutions are required to report all RRSP contributions to CRA. If you do not report the contribution on your tax return for that year, the CRA will contact you.

Who Sells RRSPs/RRIFs?

Credit unions, trust companies, life insurance, mutual fund companies, banks and investment dealers all sell RRSPs/RRIFs (including locked-in plans such as LIRA, LIF, etc.). While all RRSPs provide the same tax deduction, not all plans are the same. Each issuer/carrier offers one or more ways to invest your money, and the growth rates, terms, conditions and fees vary.

How Safe are RRSP/RRIF Investments?

Before you invest in any RRSP/RRIF, ask about deposit insurance protection. There is no insurance on mutual funds, nor on most investments commonly held in self-directed RRSPs/RRIFs.

Creditor Protection

In addition to RRSPs issued by insurance companies, there are a number of other options available to provide creditor protection of RRSPs and RRIFs held with other financial institutions:

- **Federal legislation**

The *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* protects bankrupt individuals' RRSPs and RRIFs from creditors. To prevent abuse, RRSP contributions made in the 12-month period prior to bankruptcy will not be protected.

It is important to note that this legislation will not prevent creditors in most provinces from claiming against RRSP and RRIF funds in cases where the annuitant has not filed for bankruptcy.

- **Provincial legislation**

- The Alberta *Civil Enforcement Act* provides protection of RRSP/RRIF funds, held by annuitants residing in Alberta, from any enforcement process with the exception of an enforcement under the *Maintenance Enforcement Act*. An enforcement in process prior to November 1, 2010 is not protected.
- The British Columbia *Court Order Enforcement Act* provides protection of RRSP/RRIF funds, held by annuitants residing in British Columbia, from creditors with the exception of an enforcement under the *Family Maintenance Enforcement Act*. An enforcement process commenced prior to November 1, 2008, is not protected.
- The Manitoba *Registered Retirement Savings Protection Act* provides protection of RRSP/RRIF funds, held by annuitants residing in Manitoba, from creditors with the exception of enforcement under *The Family Property Act* or *The Family Maintenance Act*. An enforcement in process prior to November 1, 2007, is not protected.
- The Newfoundland and Labrador *Judgment Enforcement Act* provides protection of RRSP/RRIF funds held by annuitants residing in Newfoundland and Labrador from creditors with the exception of enforcement under the *Support Orders Enforcement Act, 2006*. An enforcement in process prior to April 5, 2007, is not protected.
- The Prince Edward Island *Designation of Beneficiaries Under Benefit Plans Act* provides protection of RRSP and RRIF funds from execution or seizure, held by annuitants residing in Prince Edward Island, where a designation in favour of a spouse, child, grandchild or parent of an annuitant is in effect.
- The Saskatchewan *Registered Plan (Retirement Income) Exemption Act* provides protection of RRSP/RRIF funds from creditors with the exception of enforcement under the *Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*. If the Court determines the jurisdiction of the RRSP/RRIF annuitant to be Saskatchewan, the RRSP/RRIF will be protected from creditors.

- **Pension legislation**

In most cases, the funds cannot be attached by a third party demand. There are exceptions, however, and certain types of third party demands may be honoured. (For example, a garnishing order issued under matrimonial property legislation may be effective against locked-in funds.)

What Types of RRSPs are Available?

There are three basic types of individual plans available: Deposit Type Plans, Mutual Funds, and Self-Directed Plans. The following is a short description of each plan – but remember that plan features will vary among issuers.

Deposit-Type Plans

Deposit-type RRSPs are the most common plans. They offer familiar savings options including saving accounts, term deposits or guaranteed investment certificates.

The rate of interest may be variable, fixed or index-linked. Key choices include the term of the deposit (ranging from daily to multi-year); and frequency of interest calculations and payments to the RRSP (daily, monthly, annually, or end of term). Key considerations include the issuer's policy regarding early withdrawals (your investment may be non-redeemable for the term); and deposit insurance coverage.

Mutual Funds*

There are many types of funds available. Common types are money market funds, income funds and equity funds. The first is invested in short-term securities such as treasury bills, and government and corporate notes. Income funds have the same investments from time to time, but predominantly invest in longer term bonds and mortgages. An RRSP-eligible equity fund invests primarily in stocks. There are also balanced funds which hold all three types of investments.

The funds are divided into units. Unit values are updated frequently based on the market value of the investments.

When mutual funds are held in an RRSP, income or capital gains distributions are commonly used to purchase additional units.

Since mutual fund investments do and will fluctuate in value, they don't provide a guaranteed rate of return. Mutual funds are not covered by deposit insurance. Sales fees, called front-end or back-end loads, can be charged on the acquisition or redemption of units. In addition, all mutual funds pay management fees.

**Available through dealers conveniently located in many credit unions*

Self-Directed Plan

With this kind of plan, you can make all your own investment decisions within a wide range of qualified investments. A trustee does all the administration work for you. A self-directed plan may be uneconomical for those with limited RRSP funds, because of the normal administration and transaction fees.

Self-directed plans are suitable for those with considerable investment experience and ample time to manage the funds, or for those who want all their RRSP investments within one plan.

Plans involving mortgages usually incur substantially higher fees. It is permissible to hold within your self-directed RRSP a mortgage on any property you own (non-arm's length mortgage) that is eligible for mortgage insurance. This will result in additional mortgage insurance, legal and possible appraisal fees. Generally, you should only do this with more than \$25,000 of RRSP funds, and should plan for the mortgage to exist for more than three years.

More than one self-directed RRSP can invest in the same mortgage. Only in certain pension jurisdictions can Locked-in RRSPs, LIRAs, and RLSPs (see page 33) be invested in a non-arm's length mortgage.

Group (Employer-Sponsored) Plans

Group RRSPs have become popular in recent years as more and more employers make them available to their employees. They can have all the same investment options as the other types of plans. An individual account is maintained within the group RRSP for each participating employee. A group RRSP can also provide for an employee to contribute to an account in their spouse's name. Contributions to a group RRSP by an employer form part of the employee's deduction limit.

They are also taxable income to the employee, offset by receiving an RRSP contribution receipt. You may not be able to withdraw the employer's contributions and/or your own contributions, and the income thereon, as long as you remain in that employment. Additional restrictions (such as requiring that the employer's portion be used to provide a pension at retirement) are not allowed.

Contributions to group RRSPs by employers and employees are usually voluntary. Employer contributions vest immediately. If employees contribute through payroll deduction, the income tax deducted from their pay cheque is reduced at the same time, recognizing the reduction in their taxable income.

When the employment terminates, any restrictions imposed by the employer on withdrawal or transfer of the funds from the group RRSP cease.

Income Tax Considerations

Capital gains or dividends earned in an RRSP increase its value. All of the funds eventually coming out of an RRSP must be declared as income for tax purposes. Therefore, you will eventually pay tax on 100% of any capital gains and a full rate of tax on any dividends realized within an RRSP. Compare this to investments held outside an RRSP. Only one half of capital gains would be taxed, and you would pay a reduced amount of tax on the dividends by being able to claim the dividend tax credit. A Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) is a registered plan that is available to tax shelter investment income and capital gains. Contact your credit union for additional information on this new registered product.

What Does an RRSP Cost?

Always be sure to ask about fees before deciding on an RRSP. Not all issuers charge fees, but many do. Here are a few of the most common charges:

Front-End Load

Many issuers sell RRSPs through commissioned salespeople. The sales costs are often deducted from your contribution. Only the net amount is actually invested for you.

Back-End Load

Instead of a front-end load, many mutual funds offer the option of a deferred sales fee if you close out the plan within a certain number of years. This can be a percentage of the original contributions or the value at redemption. The percentage usually decreases for each year you stay invested in the same group of funds, and reaches nil within a maximum of 10 years.

Management Expense

This is an annual fee paid by the mutual fund to cover administrative costs including trustee fees, investment advisor fees and the cost of government reporting. Over a number of years, this can represent a significant reduction in the net yield from your plan.

Other Fees

Many issuers charge a flat fee on RRSP withdrawals, or if you transfer an RRSP to another issuer.

What Should You Look for in an RRSP?

Look for the plan that has the best potential return for the risk you are prepared to take.

If there are fees involved, take them into account in comparing the anticipated annual growth. Remember, a front-end load reduces the amount invested.

If for any reason you prefer a short term investment, make sure that your plan can be terminated quickly and at little or no cost.

To compare the earnings on guaranteed type RRSPs, don't look just at interest rates. Ask for the net annual yield.

The more you know about your RRSP before you invest, the better.

Benefits and Advantages

Under section 207.01 of the *Income Tax Act*, you, or anyone related to you, cannot receive a benefit or advantage that is conditional on the existence of the RRSP. Where you have received such benefits from someone other than the RRSP issuer, you are responsible for reporting that transaction to the CRA and for payment of a penalty tax equal to 100% of that benefit.

Can You Transfer Your RRSP?

The *Income Tax Act* allows you to transfer your RRSP tax free between issuers at any time. However, if your RRSP investments are non-redeemable, the issuer may not permit a transfer until the term expires. The transfer must be made directly from one issuer to the other.

RRSP Transfers Following Relationship Breakdown

If RRSPs are included in property to be divided between spouses (as defined on page 2) on breakdown of the relationship, all or part of an RRSP may be transferred between them without income tax consequences. The transfer must be made pursuant to a decree, order or judgement of a court or a written separation agreement, and CRA form T2220 must be completed to document the transfer. Transfers will be reported on a T4RSP issued in the name of the Annuitant. This is for reporting purposes by the financial institution to CRA and the annuitant is not required to file the T4RSP with his/her tax return.

Can You Withdraw Funds?

Funds in most RRSPs can be withdrawn in whole or in part, depending on the original conditions at the time the plan was established. The money you withdraw is taxable and will be reported on a T4RSP by the issuer of your plan.

Withdrawals from Spousal RRSPs

There are special rules for withdrawals from **spousal** plans. If you have contributed or contribute to any spousal plans in the year of a withdrawal, or in either of the two preceding years, the lesser of the funds withdrawn or the amount you contributed during this period will be taxable in your name. This is commonly referred to as the three-year attribution rule.

Contributions within these three years are deemed to be the first funds withdrawn, regardless of whether the funds withdrawn were actually contributed prior to the attribution period. If the amount withdrawn is more than the amount contributed by you within the three-year attribution period, the excess is declared by your spouse.

To ensure a withdrawal is taxable to the registered annuitant and not the contributor, **YOU SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THE THIRD TAXATION YEAR AFTER THE LAST CONTRIBUTION TO ANY SPOUSAL PLAN.**

CRA Form T2205 is used to determine whether amounts are taxable to the annuitant or the spouse.

The attribution period terminates on the death or non-residency from Canada of either party, or upon the legal separation of the spouses.

It also terminates if the RRSP funds are transferred to purchase an annuity. It does apply if they are transferred to a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) and more than the mandatory minimum payment amount is taken from the RRIF in any of the three years. The amount in excess of the mandatory minimum payment, to a maximum of the contributions within the three years, would be taxed in the hands of the contributor.

The Home Buyers' Plan

Each eligible RRSP annuitant can withdraw, without immediate taxation, up to \$25,000 to be used as part of a downpayment for a qualifying residence. Income tax will not be paid on any portion of the withdrawal repaid to an RRSP before or during the 15 year repayment period explained on page 19. The repayments will not be tax deductible.

NOTE: Throughout this booklet:

- the term spouse can also be read as common-law partner (see definition on page 2)
- the term spouse in the locked-in pension information also includes other individuals who have been given similar rights under applicable pension legislation
- reference to spousal plan includes common-law partner plan

For First-Time Home Buyers

The Home Buyers' Plan (hereafter referred to as the Plan) can only be used by first-time home buyers. An individual qualifies as a first-time buyer if, at the time of the withdrawal(s) under the Plan and the four previous calendar years:

- the individual nor the individual's spouse/common-law partner (CLP) or former spouse/CLP owned a home and lived in it as a principal place of residence.

An individual may participate in the Plan more than once if all previous withdrawals were repaid prior to the current year and they otherwise qualify under the above definition of a first-time buyer.

The first-time home buyer restriction is waived for disabled individuals or for a relative supporting a disabled individual. The disabled individual must qualify for the disability tax credit. The purpose of the Plan withdrawal must be to acquire a home that is more accessible to, or better suited for the care of, the disabled person.

Definition of Qualifying Residence

To utilize the Plan, you must have entered into an agreement to purchase or construct a home that:

- is located in Canada;
- was not previously owned by you or your spouse;
- will be acquired by October 1 of the year following the year of withdrawal;
- is intended to be occupied as your principal place of residence no later than one year after its acquisition.

Mobile homes, co-op units, and shares in a co-operative housing corporation also qualify.

Loss of RRSP Deductions

RRSP contributions must remain in the RRSP for at least 90 days before the Plan withdrawal to be fully deductible. Under the Plan rules you may not be eligible to deduct all or part of your RRSP contributions made during the 89-day period just before you make a Plan withdrawal. For contributions made to your RRSP in the 89-day period just prior to a Plan withdrawal to be deductible, the value of the RRSP immediately following the Plan withdrawal must be at least equal to the contributions made to the RRSP in the 89-day period.

Reduced RRSPs at Retirement

Before making a withdrawal under this Plan, you should consider the loss of the compounded earnings on this amount for the period the funds will be out of your RRSPs. Even if you make the repayments as requested, there can be a substantial reduction in the value of your RRSPs at retirement.

Applying for Your Home Buyers' Withdrawal

You apply by completing CRA form T1036 with your RRSP issuer. No withholding tax will be deducted from a qualifying withdrawal.

Other Withdrawal Information

- you can withdraw from any number of RRSPs, with different institutions, as long as your total withdrawals do not exceed \$25,000;

- all withdrawals must be within the same calendar year, except if you make a withdrawal within a calendar year, one or more additional withdrawals requested by you within that year can be received in the January following;
- withdrawals can be made up to 30 days after the completion of a purchase;
- withdrawals by your spouse from a spousal plan will not be attributed to you; any amount not repaid by your spouse will be taxed in your spouse's name;
- it is the financial institution's decision whether it will allow early withdrawals from non-redeemable investments;
- a withdrawal is not permitted from a Locked-In RRSP, LIRA or RLSP (see page 21);
- amounts withdrawn will be reported on a T4RSP in the year withdrawn.

Repayments

You are required to repay (to any RRSP) the amount withdrawn, without interest, in equal payments over a 15 year period commencing in the second calendar year following the year of your withdrawal(s). Repayments made in the first 60 days following a calendar year can be treated as if they were made within the calendar year. On your income tax return, you will designate what portion of your total RRSP contributions are repayments under the Plan, and therefore not deductible from income. In Saskatchewan, a repayment may be made to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan (SPP); however, the maximum contribution limit is \$2,500/year.

If you repay less than the specified amount in a year, you will be taxed in that year on the portion you did not repay. If you repay more than the amount specified in a year, but not the whole balance of the withdrawal, your required repayment in subsequent years will be reduced.

If you die or become a non-resident, the balance which has not been repaid or taxed will be taxed as a lump sum in that year. To provide relief from this lump sum taxation, upon your death your surviving spouse can take over your repayment or alternative income inclusion schedule.

Retired RRSP Annuitants

This Plan is attractive to retirees who qualify as first-time home buyers. Each qualifying spouse can use up to \$25,000 of their RRSP funds toward the purchase of a residence. If you don't make any repayments you will be taxed, on the amount withdrawn, evenly over 15 years. However, perhaps you plan to withdraw at least this amount from your RRSPs in each of those years anyway. These withdrawals would be taxable. By utilizing this Plan, you get the use of up to \$25,000 now, you pay no additional tax in the year of the withdrawal or the following year, and then you (or your surviving spouse) pay the tax with devalued dollars over 15 years thereafter.

The Lifelong Learning Plan

An individual may withdraw up to \$10,000 per year from his or her RRSP, without immediate taxation, to finance full-time training or higher education of at least 3 months duration for the individual or the individual's spouse.

Full-time is defined as at least 10 hours of study per week. Disabled students can qualify with part-time enrollment. Withdrawals cannot exceed \$20,000 over a four year period.

It is the financial institution's decision whether it will allow early withdrawals from non-redeemable investments. Withdrawals are not permitted from Locked-in RRSPs/LIRAs/RLSPs (see page 21).

A tax deduction is not allowed for an RRSP contribution made less than 90 days before it is withdrawn under this provision.

You are required to repay (to any RRSP) the amount withdrawn, without interest, in equal payments over a 10 year period commencing in the year following the last year in which the student is enrolled full-time, or in the sixth year following the first withdrawal, whichever is earlier. A repayment may be made to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan (SPP); however, the maximum contribution limit is \$2,500/year.

Any amount not repaid as requested will be added to the income of the planholder for that year. Special rules will apply if the RRSP funds are withdrawn and the student does not complete the educational program.

Before making a withdrawal for education, you should consider the loss of the compounded earnings on this amount for the period the funds will be out of your RRSPs. Even if you make the repayments as requested, there may be a substantial reduction in the value of your RRSPs at retirement.

You apply by completing CRA form RC96 with your RRSP issuer. No withholding tax will be deducted from a qualifying withdrawal. A T4RSP will be issued to you in the year of withdrawal.

Locked-in RRSPs/LIRAs/RLSPs

These are RRSP contracts that contain funds transferred from Registered Pension Plans (RPP) that are subject to pension legislation. The Locked-in RRSP is available for pension funds that are federally regulated under the *Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985*. The LIRA is available for all provincial pension jurisdictions. The RLSP is a Restricted Locked-in Savings Plan that is available under the Federal *Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985*. A transfer from an RPP to an RLSP is not permitted. The RLSP can only accept funds from a Restricted Life Income Fund (RLIF).

Withdrawals from a Locked-in RRSP/LIRA/RLSP are normally not permitted. There may be a minimum age restriction to convert the funds to a retirement income option and there may be restrictions to purchase a life annuity. Some pension jurisdictions will allow you to purchase a Life Income Fund (LIF) or a Locked-in Retirement Income Fund (LRIF) as an alternative to a life annuity. Saskatchewan pension legislation provides a SK RRIF as a retirement income option to replace LIF and LRIF (see page 32). Under the Federal *Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985*, the Restricted Life Income Fund (RLIF) is available in addition to LIF (see page 31).

Is There Withholding Tax?

Yes, when you withdraw money (excluding withdrawals under the Home Buyers' Plan or Lifelong Learning Plan) from your RRSP, government regulations require tax to be withheld as follows:

Amount withdrawn in excess of annual minimum amount for the year	% Withholding tax deducted at source
Up to \$5,000	10%
\$5,000.01 to \$15,000	20%
Over \$15,000	30%

Where more than one withdrawal is being made and the total amount to be withdrawn for the year is reasonably known in advance, the tax rate is based on the total of all withdrawals.

The amount of tax withheld will be reported to you on a T4RSP and should be claimed on the "Total income tax deducted (from all information slips)" line of your tax return. You should remember that RRSP withdrawals are included in your taxable income, so the tax withheld will not necessarily cover the taxes payable due to the withdrawal. On the other hand, if you are not taxable, by filing a tax return you can receive a refund of the taxes withheld.

If you are a non-resident when you withdraw funds, non-resident tax of not more than 25% will be deducted depending on the tax treaty between Canada and your country of residence.

Can You Leave Funds in an RRSP Indefinitely?

No, you must either purchase a retirement income option or withdraw your funds before the end of the calendar year in which you reach age 71.

Designation of Beneficiary

NOTE: Throughout this booklet:

- the term spouse can also be read as common-law partner (see definition on page 2)
- the term spouse in the locked-in pension information also includes other individuals who have been given similar rights under applicable pension legislation
- reference to spousal plan includes common-law partner plan

When Designating a Beneficiary on an RRSP or RRIF

- You may appoint one or more primary beneficiaries, as well as one or more alternate beneficiaries. Your spouse can be named as either a primary or alternate beneficiary.
- The portion of the RRSP or RRIF proceeds payable to your spouse or to a financially dependent child or grandchild may be transferred directly to another plan as permitted by the *Income Tax Act* or paid to the beneficiary.
- The proceeds of the RRSP or RRIF will be divided among the named “primary beneficiaries” who are alive at the date of your death. If all the primary beneficiaries have predeceased you, the proceeds would be divided among the named “alternate beneficiaries” who are alive at the date of your death. If none of the named beneficiaries survive you, or if none of them are willing to accept the funds, the proceeds will be paid to your estate.
- Except in those situations noted below, the estate is responsible for reporting and paying income tax on the funds. This could result in an inequitable distribution of assets if the designated beneficiaries are not the only residual beneficiaries of the estate.
- If the designation names a child under the age of majority or an incompetent individual, there may be a legal requirement that the proceeds of the RRSP or RRIF be paid to the Public Trustee or Official Guardian.
- If your designated beneficiary predeceases you, the designation on the contract does not provide for the proceeds to pass to that beneficiary’s children.

NOTE: A beneficiary designation on the RRSP or RRIF contract is not recognized in Quebec.

Liability for Income Tax

The estate is required to pay the income tax on any RRSP or RRIF proceeds paid to your designated beneficiary. Exceptions could occur if:

- 1) Your spouse is designated as the sole beneficiary of the RRSP or RRIF and the entire amount is transferred to his/her RRSP or RRIF. If all these conditions are not met, a joint election by your spouse and your estate representative can be made to report all or part of the amount as income of your spouse.

2) You had financially dependent children or grandchildren at the date of your death. Provisions in the *Income Tax Act* permit the transfer of RRSP or RRIF proceeds to financially dependent children or grandchildren, and depending on the circumstances, the proceeds may be reportable as income of the child or grandchild rather than income of the deceased.

If the child is physically or mentally infirm, the proceeds can be transferred to his/her RRSP, RRIF or contributed to his/her Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). The estate would not be required to pay income tax on the amount transferred/contributed. To receive the rollover provision for a contribution to his/her RDSP, completion of the RC4625 *Rollover to a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Under Paragraph 60(m)* is required.

NOTE: If your estate has insufficient assets to pay taxes on RRSP or RRIF proceeds paid to designated beneficiaries, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will collect the outstanding income tax from those individuals.

Making the ‘Best’ Designation

The decision of when and how to make a designation is YOUR responsibility. The “best” designation is the one that meets your personal and estate planning objectives.

Careful consideration should be given to:

- **Changes in your personal circumstances**

When you prepare a new Will or if you marry, any former Wills may be revoked. Depending on the applicable provincial legislation, a designation in a Will may be revoked at the same time. A designation on a “designation form” will not automatically be revoked or changed by any future marriage or divorce. A new designation form must be completed in order to effect a change.

- **The liability for the payment of debts and taxes**

- **Pertinent provincial and federal legislation**

Pension funds are subject to and controlled by specific legislation. If you designate a person other than your spouse (or other individual who has been given similar rights under applicable legislation) to receive the proceeds, such legislation may override and void your designation.

Whatever method of designation you select, a review is recommended when there are changes in legislation or in your personal circumstances. If you do not designate anyone or if the beneficiary predeceases you or refuses the gift, the proceeds will be paid to your estate and distributed in accordance with the terms of your Will (or under the laws of intestacy if you don't have a Will).

What Happens if You Die?

If your spouse is the beneficiary of your RRSP, or inherits these amounts under your Will, the proceeds can be transferred to an RRSP, RRIF or annuity for your spouse. He or she will not have to pay tax on the funds until they are withdrawn. If your spouse is over 71, he or she can use all or part of the funds to purchase a retirement income option.

If your beneficiary is a child or grandchild who was financially dependent on you, there are a number of options available for continued tax sheltering (see page 35).

In all other circumstances, your RRSP funds are taxed on your final tax return. The result is the same as if you had withdrawn your RRSP immediately before your death.

If a registered charity is the designated beneficiary of the RRSP in the plan or Will, the charitable donations tax credit can be extended to the estate.

Contributions After Death

Following your death, your legal representative cannot make further contribution to your RRSP. However, your legal representative can arrange contributions to RRSPs for your spouse, and deduct those amounts on your final tax return. This applies to contributions for the year of death made within your RRSP deduction limit (see page 3). The contributions must be made within 60 days after the end of the calendar year of your death.

Retirement Income Options for RRSP Funds

How Does an RRSP Provide Retirement Income?

Regular contributions to an RRSP will result in a substantial accumulation of savings. When you desire income, you can invest your savings in one or more of four retirement income options. You can have any number of each option.

What Options are Available?

The *Income Tax Act* provides the following income options:

- RRIF
- Term Certain Annuity to Age 90 (TCA 90)
- Life Annuity
- Variable Benefit (VB) from a Money Purchase Pension Plan

NOTE: Throughout this booklet:

- the term spouse can also be read as common-law partner (see definition on page 2)
- the term spouse in the locked-in pension information also includes other individuals who have been given similar rights under applicable pension legislation
- reference to spousal plan includes common-law partner plan

RRIFs, life annuities and VBs provide an income that can last for the lifetime of you or your spouse. TCA 90s last until you or your younger spouse turn 90.

Funds which have been transferred from a pension plan are usually subject to pension legislation. At one time, you were restricted to purchasing only life annuities with these funds. Some provinces have approved Life Income Funds (LIFs) and/or Locked-in Retirement Income Funds (LRIFs) for these funds (see page 31 & 32), as alternatives. These are subject to the RRIF legislation in the *Income Tax Act*.

When Can You Start to Receive Retirement Income?

There is no minimum required age for the purchase of a retirement income option, except with most LIRAs. You must purchase your retirement income option, before the end of the calendar year in which you turn 71. You can make a contribution to your RRSP for that year as long as you contribute by December 31.

Is Retirement Income Taxable?

There is no tax consequence when transferring your RRSP funds to a retirement income option. You only report, for tax purposes, the resulting payments as received. Since the income is spread over your retirement years, so is the tax liability. If you are 65 or over in the year, your retirement income qualifies for the Pension Income Credit (see below) if you are not already qualified. In addition, if you and your spouse elect to split your pension income, the overall tax liability may be reduced.

Neither RRIF payments nor annuity payments qualify as earned income. Annuity payments cannot be transferred to an RRSP. RRIF payments in excess of the mandatory minimum payment amount (see page 5) may be transferred DIRECTLY to an RRSP in your name until the end of the calendar year you turn 71. This might enable you to reduce the value of a RRIF to deposit insurance limits.

Withholding Tax

Income tax may be deducted from RRIF payments, but not annuity payments. The withholding tax is at the same rates as with direct RRSP withdrawals (see page 22) based on the total amount of all scheduled payments from the RRIF that year that are in excess of the annual minimum amount. The withholding tax applies to the full amount of payment taken from your RRIF in the same calendar year the RRIF is opened. Thereafter, it only applies to the portion of a RRIF payment in excess of the mandatory minimum payment amount for the year.

Pension Income Credit

The pension income credit is a federal income tax credit on qualified pension income (see below). The maximum pension income credit is \$2,000. In 2014, the maximum pension income credit was \$300 ($\$2,000 \times 15\%$ lowest tax bracket). Provincial income tax rules closely parallel the federal calculation and will save you an additional amount of provincial tax. The total tax reduction depends on your province of residence.

Amounts that DO qualify for this credit

At any age:

- periodic payments from a pension plan including Variable Benefits or superannuation plan including foreign pensions taxable in Canada

If you are 65 or over in a year, or regardless of age if received as a result of the death of your spouse:

- income from a RRIF, LIF, RLIF, LRIF, SK RRIF, MB RRIF or Saskatchewan Pension Plan (SPP) or an annuity purchased with RRSP or DPSP funds
- interest earned on term certain (general) annuities

Amounts that DO NOT qualify

- Old Age Security
- any payments from the CPP or Quebec pension plans
- retiring allowances

- lump sum withdrawals from a pension or superannuation plan
- cash withdrawals from an RRSP

When Should You Buy?

You should convert your RRSP funds to a form of retirement income if:

- you need more cash in regular periodic payments, or
- you are 65 or over in the year and need the qualification for the Pension Income Credit, or
- you will pay a reasonable rate of tax on the income now, but may be in a higher tax bracket or subject to the Old Age Security clawback in later years.

The best time to purchase annuities is when interest rates are at the peak of a cycle.

The mandatory minimum payment from a RRIF is taxable income. Therefore, you should take into consideration that purchasing a RRIF before the mandatory conversion age will increase your taxable income.

Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF)

NOTE: Throughout this booklet:

- the term spouse can also be read as common-law partner (see definition on page 2)
- the term spouse in the locked-in pension information also includes other individuals who have been given similar rights under applicable pension legislation
- reference to spousal plan includes common-law partner plan

You cannot contribute directly to a RRIF. Funds can be transferred from an RRSP, another RRIF, a Registered Pension Plan, a Deferred Profit Sharing Plan, or a commuted RRSP annuity.

Some RRIFs are similar to continuing an RRSP, with the exception that you must take some taxable payments from the RRIF. You can choose any payment level, as long as the total each year is at least equal to the mandatory minimum amount. There is no maximum payment level. With many RRIFs you can fluctuate your payments up or down above the minimum from year to year. Obviously the higher the payments you take, the sooner your funds will be depleted. RRIFs can continue for the lifetime of the annuitant or their spouse.

Spouse's Birthdate

You can elect to base your RRIF payments on your spouse's birthdate. You must make this election at the time you apply for your RRIF.

- If your spouse is younger, your minimum payment will be lower.
- If your spouse is older, your minimum payment will be higher without triggering withholding tax at source.

If you didn't make this election when you applied for your RRIF, or you marry (or enter into a common-law relationship), you can transfer your RRIF to a new RRIF based on your spouse's age. If you made this election when the RRIF was opened and you want the minimum payments to be based on your age, you can transfer your RRIF to a new RRIF.

Minimum Payment

You don't have to take any payment from a RRIF in the calendar year it is first funded. In subsequent years, there is a mandatory minimum payment amount which changes annually based on your age (or your spouse's age if you have elected) and the total value of the RRIF at the beginning of the year.

Minimum Payment, Age Less Than 71

If your age (or your spouse's age if you have elected) is less than 71 at the beginning of the year, the minimum payment amount you must receive is calculated by subtracting the age at January 1 from 90, and dividing the result into the value of the RRIF at the beginning of the year.

Minimum Payment, Age 71 and older

If the age at the beginning of the year is 71 or older, the minimum payment depends on whether the RRIF was first funded before or after January 1, 1993.

The percentages in the first column on page 30 apply to Qualifying RRIFs first funded before January 1, 1993, and to which:

- *no additional RRSP funds have been added after that date, and*
- *no funds have been transferred from another RRIF funded after that date.*

The second column applies to General RRIFs first funded after January 1, 1993, or a previous RRIF that receives funds from either of the above sources after that date.

All calculations are based on the total value of the RRIF at the beginning of the year.

Your Age	RRIF Funded Before 1/1/93 (Qualifying RRIF) %	RRIF Funded After 31/12/92 (General RRIF) %
Under 71	1/(90-age)	1/(90-age)
71	5.26	5.28
72	5.40	5.40
73	5.53	5.53
74	5.67	5.67
75	5.82	5.82
76	5.98	5.98
77	6.17	6.17
78	6.36	6.36
79	6.58	6.58
80	6.82	6.82
81	7.08	7.08
82	7.38	7.38
83	7.71	7.71
84	8.08	8.08
85	8.51	8.51
86	8.99	8.99
87	9.55	9.55
88	10.21	10.21
89	10.99	10.99
90	11.92	11.92
91	13.06	13.06
92	14.49	14.49
93	16.34	16.34
94	18.79	18.79
95 and over	20.00	20.00

Investment Choices

RRIFs are available in all the same types as RRSPs (see pages 12–14), including self-directed. The actual investments in a self-directed RRSP can be transferred to a self-directed RRIF. Shorter term investments provide some protection against the future inflation of interest rates.

Other Questions to Ask

Ask about fees, deposit insurance protection and estate preservation on any RRIF before you invest. RRIFs are fully transferable between carriers.

Life Income Fund (LIF)

A LIF holds funds locked-in under pension legislation. The same mandatory minimum payments apply as with a RRIF; however, with a LIF there is also a maximum payment amount per year. LIF governed under Federal *PBSA, 1985*, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia or Ontario pension legislation, the maximum payment restriction continues to age 90. LIF governed under Newfoundland and Labrador pension legislation, must be converted to an LRIF or a life annuity before the end of the year the annuitant attains age 80. LIF governed under Saskatchewan pension legislation, must be converted to a SK RRIF or a life annuity before the end of the year the annuitant attains age 80. LIF governed under Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Quebec pension legislation, the maximum payment restriction continues for the life of the contract.

Restricted Life Income Fund (RLIF)

RLIF holds locked-in funds governed under Federal *Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985 (PBSA, 1985)*. The same mandatory minimum payments apply as with RRIF, however, with an RLIF there is also a maximum payment amount per year. Like *PBSA, 1985* LIF, there is no requirement to convert an RLIF to a Life Annuity at age 80. The RLIF provides a 50% unlocking option of funds transferred from a Locked-in RRSP, LIF or RPP.

Variable Benefit (VB)

The following pension jurisdictions permit LIF-type payments (VB) from a defined contribution pension plan:

- Federal *PBSA, 1985*
- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- Nova Scotia

Saskatchewan pension jurisdiction permits RRIF-type payments (VB) from a pension plan of defined contribution (money purchase) benefits.

Minimum/Maximum Payments of LIF/RLIF/LRIF

The minimum payment calculation may be based on the age of the annuitant or the age of the spouse (Quebec and Nova Scotia the spouse must be younger); however, the annuitant's age must be used for New Brunswick LIF.

The maximum payment calculations must be based on the age of the annuitant.

Locked-In Retirement Income Fund (LRIF)

An LRIF holds funds locked-in under pension legislation.

It is a RRIF, non-commutable **for life**. Conversion to an annuity is not mandatory, but is an option at any time.

The same mandatory minimum payments apply as with a RRIF, however, there is also a maximum payment amount per year to ensure the LRIF continues for the lifetime of the annuitant. An LRIF is only available for purchase under Newfoundland and Labrador pension legislation.

Saskatchewan RRIF (SK RRIF)

The SK RRIF is available for funds governed under Saskatchewan pension legislation. Unlike the LIF or LRIF, the funds are not locked in. There is no maximum withdrawal limit from a SK RRIF. This means that all the funds could be withdrawn in one lump sum, although this would not normally be recommended. A new LIF or LRIF is no longer an option for Saskatchewan pension funds. Like the LIF/LRIF, the SK RRIF is protected from creditors. Individuals may transfer their LIRA, LIF or LRIF (governed under Saskatchewan legislation) to a SK RRIF. If the Registered Pension Plan (RPP) permits, the RPP may transfer directly to a SK RRIF.

Manitoba RRIF (MB RRIF)

The MB RRIF is available for funds governed under Manitoba pension legislation. Unlike the LIF, the funds are not locked-in. There is no maximum withdrawal limit from MB RRIF. This means that all the funds could be withdrawn in one lump sum, although this would not normally be recommended. The MB RRIF is protected from creditors. Eligible individuals may request a one-time transfer of up to 50% of their LIF (governed under Manitoba legislation) to a MB RRIF. If the Registered Pension Plan (RPP) permits, the RPP may transfer directly to a MB RRIF.

Investment Choices

Like RRSP and RRIFs, the Deposit Type Plans, Mutual Funds and Self-Directed Plans options apply to locked-in pension funds (see pages 12–14). However, non-arm's length mortgages are not available under all jurisdictions.

Taxation of LIF, RLIF, LRIF, SK RRIF and MB RRIF

The taxation of payments under these types of contracts is identical to RRIF payments (see pages 26–27).

Benefits and Advantages

Under section 207.01 of the *Income Tax Act*, you, or anyone related to you, cannot receive a benefit or advantage that is conditional on the existence of the RRIF. Where you have received such benefits from someone other than the RRIF carrier, you are responsible for reporting that transaction to the CRA and for payment of a penalty tax equal to 100% of that benefit.

Term Certain Annuity to Age 90 (TCA 90)

The TCA 90 provides regular periodic payments which can continue until your 90th year. If your spouse is younger than you, the TCA 90 can be purchased to continue to your spouse's 90th year. As an alternative to an annuity with a fixed rate of return, some issuers offer TCA 90s on which the yield and payments are periodically adjusted with changes in interest rates.

Life Annuity

A life annuity provides a series of regular payments that will continue for at least the rest of your life, no matter how long you live. There are two basic forms of life annuities:

Single Life

A single life annuity with no guaranteed period gives the highest initial life annuity payments, but only for your lifetime, with no further payments after your death (see Guaranteed Payments below).

Joint and Last Survivor

This annuity provides payments for the lifetime of both you or your spouse. The payments can continue to the last survivor at the full amount, or they can reduce by any stipulated percentage on your death, or the death of either

spouse. Providing for such a reduction will provide higher payments while both spouses are alive, and provide a payment stream which relates to what actually happens to living costs.

Guaranteed Payments

Any life annuity can be purchased with a guaranteed period to ensure that either you or your beneficiaries get back all of your original investment (plus full interest if you wish) even if you live only a short time. The longer the guaranteed period (it can be to age 90), the lower your payments.

In addition to the reducing Joint and Last Survivor option described above, you have other options in choosing a payment stream which may suit your circumstances, including:

- **Integrated Life Annuity**

You can integrate your RRSP annuity with Old Age Security. You will receive substantially increased annuity payments until age 65, at which time the payments will reduce by the maximum OAS entitlement at the time you purchase the annuity.

- **Indexed Life Annuity**

This increasing income option provides annuity payments that either increase by 1, 2, 3 or 4% automatically each year, or increase based on the return of a specified group of assets. This provides you with some protection against inflating living costs. Choosing this option does, however, substantially reduce your payment in the early years.

Are There Any Risks Involved?

The RRIF and the TCA 90 are designed to repay the full investment and all earnings to you or your beneficiaries.

If your RRIF is invested in mutual funds or equities, you have the risk of losses.

With a life annuity, there is a risk that all of your capital and its earnings may not be repaid to you by the time payments cease on your death. Purchase of a guaranteed period can eliminate this risk.

In most provinces your investment in a credit union, bank or trust company RRIF or TCA 90 will be covered by the same deposit insurance fund that covers RRSP deposits.

Most life insurance companies are members of a consumer protection plan which is intended to safeguard their RRIFs, or the life annuity income, should a life insurance company fail to meet its obligations.

Can You Commute Your Retirement Income Options?

A RRIF can be terminated and the full value taken in a lump sum provided the funds are not invested in a non-redeemable term, and the wording of the contract does not prohibit commutation. Commutable annuities can also be purchased. You will have to accept a lower yield on a commutable annuity in exchange for this option.

The commuted value of a RRIF can be used, without taxation, to directly purchase an annuity. The commuted value of an RRSP annuity can similarly be used to invest in a RRIF. This flexibility might be valuable should there be further legislative changes in the future affecting the retirement income options.

If we ever again experience extremely high yields on life annuities, as in 1981, having this flexibility would allow you to convert part or all of your RRIF to the high annuity yield for the rest of your life.

The terminated value of a RRIF in excess of the mandatory minimum payment amount for the year can be transferred directly to an RRSP in your name provided you are not past the year in which you turn 71. This enables you to terminate the mandatory income from a RRIF.

What Happens in Case of Death?

With a life annuity with no guarantee, the payments cease upon death. If you purchase a TCA 90 and you die before age 90, or if you die within the guaranteed period of a single life annuity, payments can continue to your spouse for the remainder of the guaranteed payment period, or until his or her death.

With a RRIF, your spouse, if named on the plan, can take your place without tax consequence and make his or her own decision on the income and payout term, or can transfer the balance to another eligible plan.

If your estate or someone other than a spouse or a dependent child or grandchild is the beneficiary, the remaining value at that time (with a life annuity this is the discounted cash value of the remaining guaranteed payments), will be paid in a lump sum to the estate or beneficiaries. This lump sum is taxable on your final tax return.

If your beneficiary is a physically or mentally handicapped child or grandchild who was financially dependent on you, part or all of the remaining value can be transferred, without

taxation, to an RRSP, RRIF, RDSP or annuity in the child's or grandchild's name, or taxed in his or her name. If the beneficiary is an able-bodied child or grandchild under 18 who was financially dependent on you, part or all of the remaining value can be transferred, without taxation, to a Term Annuity to Age 18, with annuity payments taxed in the child's name over that period.

If a charity is the designated beneficiary of the RRIF in the plan or Will, the charitable donations tax credit can be extended to the estate.

For LIF/LRIF/RLIF/MB RRIF/SK RRIF, the spouse is entitled to the funds on death of the annuitant; however, exceptions may apply. Where the spouse is not entitled, the contract is treated as a regular RRIF and the above rules would apply.

Who Sells Retirement Income Options?

All RRSP issuers can get approval to offer RRIFs and TCA 90s. Only life insurance companies offer life annuities, although they can be arranged through most insurance agencies. Most RRIF carriers have approval for LIF, LRIF, RLIF, MB RRIF and SK RRIF.

How Do You Choose an Option?

Because of the wide variety and the fact that the available yields change frequently, it is wise to obtain the help of a financial advisor before selecting your retirement income option(s).

The selection of a retirement income option depends entirely on your personal situation (health, present income and tax brackets, cash requirements, desired inflation protection or estate preservation, etc.). You may often select more than one of the options to create your retirement income package.

With a RRIF you can choose your own investments and change your payment amount from time to time. Your funds may or may not last for life, depending on the payment amounts you choose. Depending on your choice of RRIF investments, your RRIF may be covered by deposit insurance.

Life annuities provide an income for life and require no ongoing decisions. In comparison to a life annuity, the TCA

90 usually provides slightly lower payments in exchange for a long guaranteed period. With a Variable Benefit (VB), the funds remain in the money-purchase pension plan and provide payment flexibility similar to a RRIF/LIF. The TCA 90, the VBA and the RRIF provide good estate preservation; should you pass away and not leave a spouse, the remaining balance will be paid in a lump sum to your estate or other beneficiaries.

Calculation of RRSP Deduction Limit

Use Your Figures for the Prior Year:

Total employment earnings* \$ _____

Minus:

Union or professional dues claimed \$ _____

Employment expenses claimed (_____) (_____) \$ _____

Plus:

C.P.P. disability benefits \$ _____

Net income from self-employment \$ _____

Net rental income from real estate \$ _____

Taxable alimony or maintenance payments received \$ _____

Royalties of an author or inventor \$ _____

Net research grants received \$ _____

Wage Earner Protection Program payments \$ _____

Subtotal \$ _____

Minus:

Current year loss from self-employment (_____) _____

Current year rental loss from real estate (_____) _____

Deductible alimony or maintenance payments paid (_____) _____

YOUR EARNED INCOME FOR PRIOR YEAR \$ _____

MAXIMUM RRSP DEDUCTION BASED ON EARNED INCOME

Lesser of 18% of above earned income or maximum amount for current year (see page 4) \$ _____

Minus:

Your pension adjustment (PA) and net past service pension adjustment (PSPA) (see page 4) (_____) _____

Plus:

Your pension adjustment reversal (PAR) (see page 4) \$ _____

YOUR RRSP DEDUCTION LIMIT FOR CURRENT YEAR

\$ _____

NOTES:

1. The above DEDUCTION LIMIT can be contributed to your own RRSP/SPP or to an RRSP/SPP for your spouse or common-law partner.
2. It includes RRSP contributions made on your behalf by an employer.
3. It does not include special transfers to your RRSP (see page 5).

* Including taxable wage loss replacement or long-term disability income resulting from employment, but excluding Employment Insurance or Worker's Compensation payments.



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