



# TFSA or RRSP? TAKE YOUR PICK

Should you invest in a tax free savings account (TFSA)  
or a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP)?

For most, the answer is “a bit of both.” Both plans are registered and provide a way to save for your retirement and other future lifestyle expenses. Current income levels play a large role in answering the question and both plans allow for your savings to remain tax sheltered while inside the plan. It’s also a good idea to ask yourself if you have a known short or medium-term need (under five years), or long term retirement needs.

For more details review the key differences and pros and cons of each below:

## What are the key differences?

REGISTERED RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN (RRSP)	TAX FREE SAVINGS ACCOUNT (TFSA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan inception: 1957</li> <li>Grows Tax Sheltered – until withdrawn</li> <li>Based on earned income</li> </ul> <p><b>MINIMUM AGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No minimum age; requires earned income</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTRIBUTION LIMITS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on previous year’s earned income</li> <li>Maximum Limits: 18% of previous years income; less pension adjustment to annual maximum established by Canada Revenue Agency</li> <li>Undeducted contributions carry forward</li> </ul> <p><b>MAXIMUM AGE – RRSP MATURITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RRSP must be converted to RRIF at age 71</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tax deductible</li> <li>Unused contributions accrue to 71</li> <li>1% Penalty per month on overcontributions</li> </ul> <p><b>INVESTMENT HOLDINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are a wide variety of investment options available that include but not limited to Stocks, Bonds, GICs, Mutual Funds</li> </ul> <p><b>BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tax free rollover to spouse’s RRSP</li> <li>May designate a named Beneficiary or your Estate</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTRIBUTION ROOM INFORMATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available on Notice Of Assessment or Canada Revenue Agency website (registration required for access)</li> </ul> <p><b>WITHDRAWALS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taxed as income</li> <li>Withdrawals: may impact Old Age Security or supplements</li> <li>RRIF Mandatory withdrawals at 72</li> <li>Can withdraw up to \$35,000 tax free under Home Buyer’s Plan (HBP) for first-time buyers, but must be paid back over 15 years.</li> <li>Can withdraw up to \$10,000 per year for education. Costs under the Lifelong Learning Plan (LLP), up to \$20,000, but must be paid back over 10 years</li> </ul> <p><b>TAX IMPLICATIONS ON WITHDRAWALS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Withdrawals are taxed as income</li> <li>Increases taxable income at retirement</li> <li>No preferential tax treatment of dividends or capital gains</li> <li>Fully taxed as income at death unless transferred to spouse or minor child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan inception: 2009</li> <li>Grows Tax Free – withdrawals untaxed</li> <li>Not based on earned income</li> </ul> <p><b>MINIMUM AGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be 18 years of age</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTRIBUTION LIMITS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual limits set by Canada Revenue Agency</li> <li>No earned income required</li> <li>\$6,000 per year (periodic indexing)</li> <li>Unused amounts carry forward</li> </ul> <p><b>MAXIMUM AGE – NO MATURITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No age limit</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not tax deductible</li> <li>Unused contributions accumulate</li> <li>1% Penalty per month on overcontributions</li> </ul> <p><b>INVESTMENT HOLDINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are a wide variety of investment options available that include but are not limited to Stocks, Bonds, GICs, Mutual Funds</li> </ul> <p><b>BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rollover transfer to spouse’s TFSA</li> <li>May designate a named Beneficiary or your Estate</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTRIBUTION ROOM INFORMATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available on Canada Revenue Agency website (registration required for access)</li> </ul> <p><b>WITHDRAWALS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not taxed as income</li> <li>Withdrawals: will not impact Old Age Security</li> <li>No mandatory withdrawals</li> </ul> <p><b>TAX IMPLICATIONS ON WITHDRAWALS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No taxation on withdrawals</li> <li>No increase in taxable income</li> <li>No taxation at death</li> </ul>

## What are the pros & cons?

### REGISTERED RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN (RRSP)

#### PROS

- Immediate tax benefit on contribution
- Funds can be deposited into a Spousal RRSP to help split income and thereby lower taxes in retirement
- Enforces savings discipline because of the tax implications on withdrawals
- At death, RRSPs can be transferred to the surviving spouse tax free

#### CONS

- The investor will have to pay tax upon withdrawal, and a minimum, ten percent withholding at source is required with a maximum thirty percent for larger amounts
- Withdrawals are subject to your marginal tax bracket at any time (other than for a first-time home buyer plan or you or your spouse are attending school)
- Withdrawals result in permanent loss of contribution room
- Unless there is a surviving spouse or dependant minor child, the entire balance of an RRSP, valued on the date of death, is taxed as income on the deceased's terminal return. If the balance is large enough, it can generate significant tax liability for the heirs.

### TAX FREE SAVINGS ACCOUNT (TFSA)

#### PROS

- Funds can be withdrawn from a TFSA at any time without any tax penalties
- TFSA spans a lifetime, does not present any tax liability at death unlike an RRSP

#### CONS

- Funds can be withdrawn from a TFSA at any time making withdrawals tempting; investors must rely on self-discipline.
- Repayments of withdrawals that put an individual over the maximum contribution are subject to severe penalties; investors must self-monitor, and wait until the following year

## GOT QUESTIONS?

Contact DJB Wealth Management Inc. today - we can help you stay on the right path!



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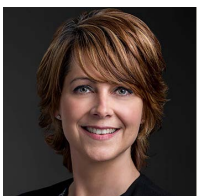
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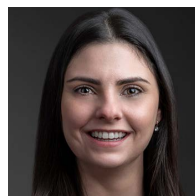
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