



The Registered Disability Savings Plan

BC EDITION



Saving for Josh

When my son Joshua became disabled at five months of age I was not ready for this change to my son's life, nor to my own. Like many I grew up in a community where individuals with a disability were segregated. I had no first hand experience of how to support a child with a disability. What I did know is that I had a responsibility to care for my son, now and in the future.

I also knew that my son would not grow up to be an independent adult. Josh would require care and support for the rest of his life. My greatest challenge was to find a way to care for my son after I died or became unable to care for him.

I recognized that my responsibility to Josh didn't end when I died, rather it ends when Josh dies. If Josh outlives me, as I hope he will, my challenge is how to care for my son when I am no longer able.

Of the many resources that I have learned about and accessed in my journey with my son, none has been more beneficial than PLAN. PLAN has prepared me to plan for Josh's future, a future where he is safe and secure and experiences a good life. The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) is an important component in securing Josh's future. The RDSP helps to ensure that Josh will have the financial resources needed to access the services and opportunities that will provide him with a good life.

The RDSP enables Josh to access the latest advances in medical treatments that are not covered by our medical system and whatever supports or services might exist in the future to enable him to experience health and happiness. In the meantime, the RDSP provides me with peace of mind knowing my son will be well cared for in the future.

What is a Registered Disability Savings Plan?

The RDSP will help you or your family member save money for the future. If you put a bit of money into an RDSP each year, it will grow into a lot of money.

The federal government will also put money into the RDSP. Sometimes you can get money from the federal government for your RDSP even if you don't put any money in!

Your BC Disability Assistance will not be reduced. The money in an RDSP can grow to whatever amount and you can still receive your BC Disability Assistance. You can also use the money in the RDSP for anything you want.

What is the Canada Disability Savings Bond?

The Canada Disability Savings Bond is one way that the federal government will put money into your RDSP. If a person with a disability has less than \$21,947 in income per year, the federal government will put in \$1,000 into the RDSP. If the person with the disability is younger than 18, then it is the family income that counts. If you have an income between \$21,947 and \$39,065, you can still receive some of the \$1,000.

You don't even have to put anything into the RDSP to get the Bond!

The maximum amount of Bond the federal government will put into a RDSP is \$20,000 over your lifetime. The person has to be 49 or younger to get the Bond.

What is the Canada Disability Savings Grant?

The Canada Disability Savings Grant is the second way for the federal government to put money into your RDSP. When you or other family members or friends put money into the RDSP the federal government will also put in some money. In some cases the federal government will put in \$3 for every \$1 you put in.

The maximum Grant that the federal government will put into an RDSP is \$3,500 per year and \$70,000 in their lifetime. The amount that the federal government puts in depends on your income, if your child is younger than 18. If they are 18 or older, it depends on their income. The person has to be 49 or younger to get the Grant.

QUICK FACTS

Key Terms

Registered Disability Savings Plan = The new plan to help you or your relative with a disability save for the future.

RDSP = Short form for Registered Disability Savings Plan.

Account holder = The person who manages the RDSP and makes the decisions on how to invest.

Canada Revenue Agency = The federal government agency in charge of taxes and checking to see if you are able to get the Disability Tax Credit.

Federal Government = The Government of Canada.

Provincial Government = The Government of British Columbia.

Registered Disability Savings Plan

- Helps you or your family member save for the future.
- You don't have to pay taxes on money in the RDSP, and payments will only be partially taxed.
- You can put up to \$200,000 dollars into the RDSP.
- Anyone can contribute to the RDSP. You, your family, friends, neighbours, or anyone else.
- The federal government will put in up to \$90,000.
- You can open a plan at most major banks in Canada—check www.rdsp.com for the full list
- You do not need to visit a lawyer or accountant to set up a plan.

Where to get more information about the RDSP

- Visit www.rdsp.com
- For Questions—Call 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)
- Take a free Telephone Seminar on the RDSP by calling PLAN at 604-439-9566 www.plan.ca
- Pick up a free copy of our book *Safe and Secure: RDSP Edition* at any London Drugs pharmacy

How does the RDSP work?



Kathy and Rob set up an RDSP for their daughter.

Kathy and Rob live in New Westminister British Columbia. The Bromley's have two children, Michael and Shannon. Shannon is 15 and has a severe disability called Angelmann's Syndrome. Shannon loves playing baseball, skiing, and swimming with dolphins.

Kathy and Rob are in good health, but they are worried about what will happen to Shannon when they pass away. An RDSP would be one way of preparing for the future and could really help Shannon to plan for a good life. Saving on their own has been difficult.

*From age 45 to death, the RDSP
will make monthly payments to Shannon*

With the RDSP they can set aside small amounts of money and the federal government would contribute alongside their savings. With the income it could earn when they invest, it could grow into a large amount of money.

Shannon could use it to pay for a home when she's older, to cover additional supports, or just use it for things that she might not be able to afford otherwise.

Rob and Kathy went to www.rdsp.com and looked at the RDSP calculator. They used the calculator to figure out how much the plan would grow if they put \$200 a month into an RDSP for Shannon.

Here's how it works:

FROM AGE 15 TO 34

Kathy and Rob open an RDSP for Shannon at their local bank and deposit \$2,000.

They put \$200 per month in the RDSP for 20 years. (that's a total of \$48,000)

The federal government puts in \$79,500.

FROM AGE 35 TO 45

Shannon waits ten years to withdraw money because she doesn't want to pay a penalty.

AT AGE 45

Shannon's RDSP is worth more than \$377,237.

FROM AGE 45 TO DEATH

The RDSP will make monthly payments to Shannon

AGE 45 \$850/MONTH

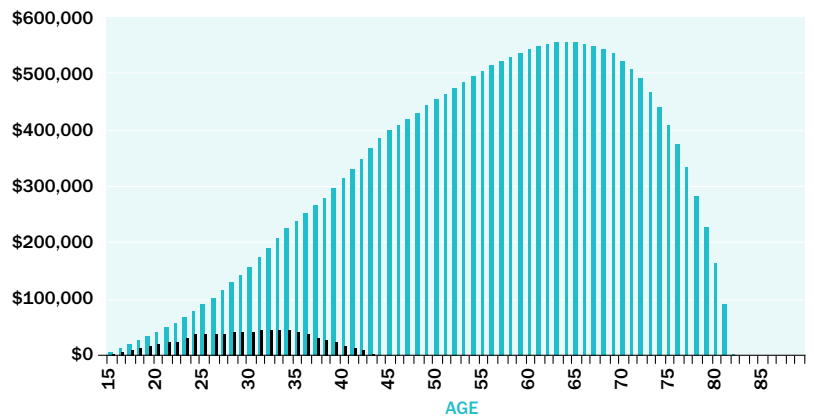
AGE 55 \$1500/MONTH

AGE 65 \$2500/MONTH

AGE 75 \$4200/MONTH

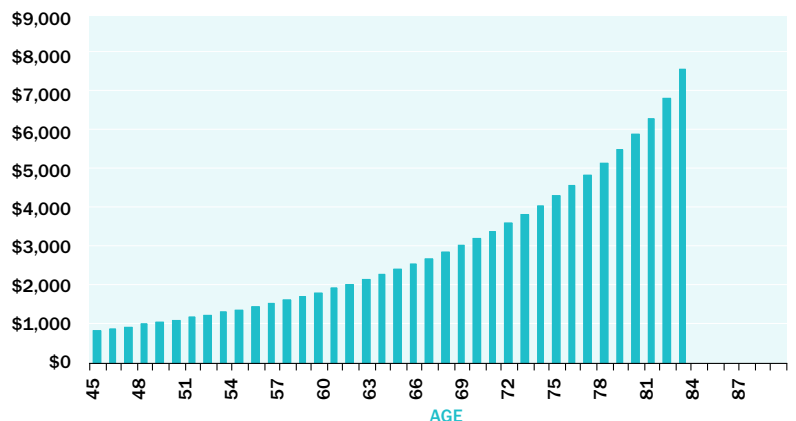
At Shannon's death, whatever is left in the RDSP will be distributed to her family or through her will.

MONEY IN SHANNON'S RDSP



This graph shows how much money is in Shannon's RDSP. It starts at age 15 (on the bottom) and goes to age 83. To see how much money the RDSP has look at the age and see how high the bar goes. At age 15, it is \$0. At age 25, it is more than \$50,000. At age 35, it is more than \$200,000 and it continues to grow.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS FROM SHANNON'S RDSP



This graph shows how much Shannon would receive each year from her RDSP. At age 45, she would get \$10,000. At age 60, she would get about \$22,000 per year. At 75, she would get more than \$50,000 per year and so on. Shannon could keep her RDSP payments and also her British Columbia disability income assistance payments.

Keep in mind that Shannon could keep her RDSP payments and also her British Columbia Income and Disability Benefits.

Questions and Answers

1

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE RDSP?

People who get the Disability Tax Credit.

People who are 59 or younger can put money in an RDSP.

People who are 49 or younger can get the federal government money.

2

WHAT IS THE DISABILITY TAX CREDIT?

A tax credit is something you claim when you do your Income Tax Return so you don't have to pay so much tax.

The Disability Tax Credit is a credit that a person gets if they are disabled. Parents that are caring for a child with a disability can also claim it to save taxes.

You or your family member must apply for the Disability Tax Credit to be able to claim it or to be able to open an RDSP.

3

HOW DO WE APPLY FOR THE DISABILITY TAX CREDIT?

To apply for the Disability Tax Credit you need to get your doctor (or eye doctor if your child is blind) to fill out a special form and send it to Canada Revenue Agency.

The form that needs to be filled out is called Form T-2201. After looking at the form, they will let you know whether you have been approved. To get the form call the CRA at 1-800-959-2221.

4

WILL I OR MY FAMILY MEMBER LOSE DISABILITY ASSISTANCE?

No. A person can have as much as they want in an RDSP and can also receive and use the money from the RDSP without affecting their BC Disability Benefits.

Disability Assistance & the RDSP

What is Disability Assistance?

If you live in British Columbia, are 18 years or older, have a low income and a disability, you could get BC Disability Assistance. These benefits assist with housing, food, shelter, clothing and disability related items. You can also receive support for employment and other medical benefits.



BC Income Limits

Any money from a trust, employment, self employment or pension must be reported. Disability Assistance allows you to earn an additional \$500 without it impacting your benefits.

Any money coming out of an RDSP is not counted as income, and will not be deducted from your Disability Assistance cheque!

BC Asset Limits

You are allowed to have a certain amount of valuable items without having any money deducted from your cheque. These items are called assets and include things like cash, property, clothing and other possessions. Some assets, like your house or car, are completely exempt and you do not have any money deducted from your Disability Assistance cheque for their value.

Other assets, like cash and bank accounts, are exempt up to a certain amount of value. For example, as a single person, the asset exemption is \$3,000. You can have assets worth \$3,000 without having any deduction to your cheque.

An RDSP is in addition to these assets and is not limited to \$3000 in value!

What if I set up an RDSP? Can I still get my Disability Assistance?

Yes. If you set up an RDSP, you will still receive all your Disability Assistance from the province. Even if your RDSP grows to be a large amount of money and you take the money out, you will not lose your Disability Assistance.

How do I get Disability Assistance?

For information on how to apply, contact the Ministry of Housing and Social Development, toll free at 1-800-663-7867, TTY 1-800-661-8773.

Things you must do to set up an RDSP!

- Get your social insurance number
- Become eligible for the Disability Tax Credit
- File your income tax returns
- Choose your bank
- Choose your holder
- Open your account

Once open, you will need to invest and manage your money!



The Step-by-Step guide will assist you, friends or family to become eligible, open and manage your RDSP. Download your copy at www.rdsp.com or www.getsmarteraboutmoney.ca

PLAN



PLAN is the leading independent voice for families of people with disabilities.

We provide information and resources to assist families to plan for the good life of their loved one.

PLAN for the future. PLAN for a Good Life.

Subscribe to PLAN for as little as \$9.95/year and receive:

- 25 % discount on all future planning seminars
- Monthly 'Good Life' newsletter full of stories, tips and relevant information
- Connection to a national community of families
- An advocating voice for families to government
- Up-to-date information on RDSP and other policy initiatives
- Access to books, publications and online resources
- Subscription to Abilities magazine or Exceptional Family magazine

Go to www.plan.ca and Join PLAN!