



**RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
FOR
ASSOCIATION DES PROFESSIONNELS
DES ARTS DE LA SCÈNE DU QUÉBEC**

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Money working for people

Introduction

Everyone recognizes the importance of financial security at retirement. An RRSP is the most popular tax-sheltered retirement plan in Canada.

The RRSP for **Association des Professionnels des Arts de la Scène du Québec** (the Plan Sponsor) has been established for the purpose of providing you with a foundation for financial security during your retirement years. Since your investment will grow in a tax-sheltered environment, contributions made to this RRSP, together with interest or capital gains, should allow you to accumulate more for your retirement than any taxable investment.

Your participation in this RRSP may also help you to achieve other financial goals such as the purchase of a home.

Your Plan Sponsor has chosen Desjardins Financial Security Life Assurance Company (DFS) as service provider for the day-to-day administration of this RRSP. If you require information on this RRSP, you may contact your Plan Sponsor or DFS (information on how to reach DFS is shown at the end of this booklet).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why should I contribute to a group RRSP?

It is to your advantage to begin contributing to an RRSP as early as possible. Starting early means you have more time to accumulate investment returns on a tax-sheltered basis for your retirement.

A group RRSP allows you to defer taxes on the contributions you make to the Plan. Furthermore, all investment earnings accumulate tax-free until the funds are withdrawn.

Contributing by payroll deduction is a convenient way to save.

How do I join the Plan?

To join the Plan, you simply complete the enrollment form provided by the Plan Sponsor.

How do I contribute?

You may make contributions by payroll deduction or by making lump-sum deposits. The lump-sum deposits can be made by pre-authorized cheque or by cheque payable to Desjardins Financial Security Life Assurance Company.

If you make contributions through payroll deduction, you may qualify for an immediate tax reduction, instead of waiting until you file your tax return.

How much may I contribute?

You can contribute up to the lesser of 18% of your previous year's earned income and the maximum dollar amount for that year as prescribed in the *Income Tax Act*. These contributions are deductible from your taxable income when you file your tax return. You may refer to the Notice of Assessment or the Notice of Reassessment which Canada Revenue Agency provides you each year to confirm your maximum deductible contribution.

Your allowable contribution amount will be reduced by all pension adjustments that were reported to Canada Revenue Agency. A pension adjustment is reported if you are a member of a pension plan or a deferred profit sharing plan.

Contributions cannot be made beyond the end of the year in which you turn 71.

Plan contributions must be made within 60 days after the end of the calendar year to be tax deductible for that year. As well, contributions made after year-end may be applied to the year in which they are made.

May I contribute on behalf of my spouse?

Yes, you may make "spousal" contributions. These contributions are included in your total contribution limit determined by the government, and you benefit from the tax deduction claimed on your income tax return.

Your spouse will be entitled to any benefit described in this booklet with respect to the contributions made on his/her behalf.

What other deposits are allowed?

In addition to your regular contributions, direct transfers may be made from a registered plan with a former employer or from another RRSP.

How are contributions made to my RRSP invested?

The contributions are invested according to your investment instructions. **If you do not provide any, they will be deposited in the fund selected by the Plan Sponsor in this respect or, failing that, in a money market fund.**

You may change your investment direction at any time. We recommend that you review them annually. You can also transfer from one investment option to another that is offered under this Plan. **DFS does not apply fees on transfers between funds.**

There may be a market value adjustment applied to any transfer or surrender from the guaranteed funds prior to maturity of an investment term.

Please contact your Plan Sponsor or DFS (see the information at the end of this booklet) for further details or advice.

May I withdraw my contributions at any time?

Since the purpose of this RRSP is to help you save for retirement, your Plan Sponsor discourages withdrawals. However, withdrawals are permitted at any time subject to a nominal fee, in accordance with the DFS contract. Each withdrawal is also subject to withholding taxes, with the exception of the Home Buyers' Plan or the Lifelong Learning Plan.

Locked-in amounts transferred from a registered pension plan cannot be paid in a lump sum. These amounts may only be transferred out in accordance with governing legislation.

What happens when I retire?

You may purchase an annuity at retirement. Annuity payments may commence at any time before the last day of the year in which you attain age 71.

The amount of annuity you will receive will depend on your age, the accumulated value of your Plan, the annuity purchase rates applicable at the time you retire and the form of annuity you select.

As an alternative to an annuity, you may transfer the accumulated value of your Plan (except for locked-in money) to a registered retirement income fund (RRIF).

What happens upon my death?

Should you die prior to electing a retirement option, your contributions and any investment earnings will be paid to your designated beneficiary in cash, subject to withholding taxes. If your spouse is the designated beneficiary, he/she also has the option to transfer the death benefit to his/her RRSP.

A beneficiary should be designated to receive benefits upon your death. If a beneficiary is not designated, your estate will receive any benefits that are payable.

Locked-in funds transferred from a registered pension plan may be treated differently.

What happens if I terminate employment?

Should you leave your employment, you will receive the contributions made to the Plan plus any investment earnings in cash, subject to withholding taxes, or you may transfer your termination of employment benefit to another registered plan.

Locked-in contributions transferred from a registered pension plan cannot be paid in cash. They may only be transferred out in accordance with governing legislation.

May I assign benefits?

Plan benefits cannot be assigned.

I INVESTMENT OPTIONS

Your Plan Sponsor offers you through the DFS contract a range of investment options. Your Plan Sponsor has considered the following criteria in the selection of investment options available under this RRSP:

- the degree of diversification among the investment options available;
- the liquidity of the investment options; and
- the level of risk associated with the investment options.

You are responsible for using the information and decision-making tools made available by your Plan Sponsor and DFS to assist you in making investment decisions.

You should consider obtaining investment advice from a qualified investment advisor to help you make appropriate investment decisions, according to your investor profile. The DFS Customer Contact Centre offers you this service (see information at the end of this booklet).

The Guaranteed Funds, Pooled Funds and Portfolios offered by DFS are tailored to suit your needs.

Guaranteed Funds

The Plan offers three Guaranteed Funds with 1-year, 3-year and 5-year terms.

Investing in Guaranteed Funds ensures the safety of your contributions and the interest accrued at a fixed rate for the term selected.

Desjardins Financial Security Life Assurance Company (DFS) is a member of Assuris. Assuris is a not for profit corporation, funded by the life insurance industry, that protects Canadian Policyholder against loss of benefits due to the financial failure of a member company. Details about the extent of Assuris protection are available at www.assuris.ca or in their brochure, which can be obtained from your financial advisor, DFS or Assuris at info@assuris.ca or by calling 1-800-268-8099.

Pooled Funds

The Plan offers various pooled funds that are managed by professional investment firms.

When investing in pooled funds, your investment is not guaranteed and there is no fixed rate of return. The value of your investment will fluctuate depending on market conditions. The expected return will vary depending on the risk profile of the fund.

Pre-Established Portfolios

You may select one of the pre-established DFS portfolios based on your investor profile. Each portfolio contains a selection of pooled funds offered by DFS.

To determine your profile, you will need to complete the DFS questionnaire titled "My Investor Profile". This document will help to determine your risk profile

Your Plan Sponsor will provide you with your own copy of "My Investor Profile". You may also find it on the DFS Website listed at the back of this booklet.

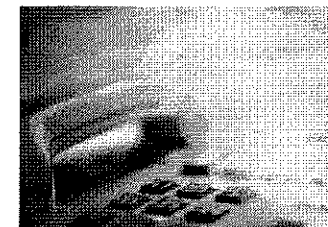
Are there any fees payable?

Investment fees are applied to each DFS pooled fund and pre-established portfolio. There are no fees applicable to the guaranteed funds. Other fees for the administration of the Plan also apply.

Please contact your Plan Sponsor or DFS (see the information at the end of this booklet) for details on fees payable under this RRSP.

HOW TO REACH

Desjardins Financial Security
Life Assurance Company



OUR CUSTOMER CONTACT CENTRE

By Telephone

**1-800-968-3587
(514) 285-7717**

By E-Mail

grouppension@dfs.ca

By fax

1-877-350-8555

OUR WEBSITE

www.desjardinsfinancialsecurity.com

OUR INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

www.desjardinsfinancialsecurity.com/participant



OUR WEBSITE

Our Website includes a General Information Section on retirement plans. In this section you will find a full range of services and information that will answer your questions about the following:

- Our retirement savings services
- The types of plans we offer
- Our investment funds and their returns



Discover the possibilities for managing your personal finances offered by "My Personal Teller".

OUR INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

Our Interactive Website, "My Personal Teller" allows you to:

- Request a financial statement for any period you choose
- Change your investment direction
- Transfer money between funds
- Print forms
- Update your address
- Consult your transaction history
- Find the level of savings you need to enjoy a comfortable retirement
- Determine your investor profile
- Read about group retirement savings news and obtain advice