

Impact on other federal and provincial government programs

2010

The RDSP is a new federally registered savings plan that is delivered by the Canada Revenue Agency. It is designed to ensure long-term financial security for people with disabilities. Beneficiaries may receive the added benefit of government grants and bonds. The RDSP, grant and bond are an initiative of the Government of Canada. Independent Living (IL) Canada encourages people to apply for RDSP's. This savings plan aligns with the Independent Living philosophy encouraging people with disabilities to plan for their long term financial security and the future costs of disability needs. Please contact your local Independent Living Centre for more information. Go to www.ilcanada.ca to find a local IL Centre.

National Level

Having an RDSP and/or withdrawing money from it does not impact other federal government benefits or programs such as:

- The Canada Child Tax Benefit - www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/cctb
- The Goods and Services Tax Benefit
<http://canadaonline.about.com/od/personalfinance/g/gst.htm>
- Old Age Security - www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/isp/oas/oastoc.shtml
- Employment Insurance - www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/ei/menu/eihome.shtml
- Canada Pension Plan - www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/isp/cpp/cpptoc.shtml
- Guaranteed Income Supplement - www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/isp/pub/oas/gismain.shtml

Provincial and Territorial

All provinces and territories have announced a partial or full exemption of RDSP income and assets for the purposes of assessing eligibility for provincial and territorial programs and services. The RDSP is designed to allow people who are eligible for provincial/territorial disability benefits accumulate assets future financial security.

How does the RDSP impact provincial government programs?

It is highly recommended that you consult your provincial and territorial government for up-to-date and accurate information.

Alberta - income and assets of an RDSP will be fully exempted when determining eligibility for provincial financial assistance programs.

British Columbia - RDSPs are fully exempt when calculating an individual's eligibility for provincial disability assistance.

How does the RDSP impact government programs in my province?

Manitoba - RDSP assets and income will be exempted when determining eligibility for social assistance.

New Brunswick - RDSP assets are fully exempt when calculating a consumer's eligibility for programs such as social assistance and social housing benefits.

Newfoundland and Labrador - has amended regulations to exempt RDSPs from the calculation of Income Support benefits.

Northwest Territories - RDSP assets and RDSP withdrawals are fully exempt when determining eligibility for income security programs administered by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

Nova Scotia - RDSP contributions are fully exempt when calculating consumers' eligibility for income assistance. Clients will also be able to withdraw funds from their RDSPs without affecting their income assistance payments.

Nunavut - amended regulations will fully exempt RDSP assets and income for the purposes of establishing eligibility for social assistance.

Ontario - RDSP contributions and payments from RDSPs will not impact eligibility for social assistance.

Prince Edward Island - RDSP assets are fully exempt when calculating eligibility for social programs such as social assistance, disability support services, child care subsidies, social housing, pharmacy programs and children's dental programs. Any withdrawal from an RDSP will be exempt as long as total income is not greater than the low-income level defined by the National Council of Welfare.

Quebec – the provincial government has announced its intention to exempt RDSP income up to the low-income threshold set by the Institut de la statistique du Québec.

Saskatchewan - RDSPs are fully exempt from social assistance calculations.

Yukon - amended social assistance regulations now exclude both RDSP income and assets for the purpose of determining benefit levels.

Additional information

- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada – www.disabilitysavings.gc.ca from here, click on the links for more information on:
 - RDSP and Federal Benefits
 - RDSP and Provincial and Territorial Benefits