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FACTS:

# Gifts of Retirement Savings Plans



Do you want to make a significant commitment today towards important research that preserves and protects our freshwater supplies but postpone your donation until you pass away?

## A gift of retirement savings might be right for you.

By naming IISD Experimental Lakes Area as a beneficiary of retirement savings plans (either RRSP or RRIF), single individuals without dependents can easily make a generous gift in support of our mission, beyond their lifetime.

## How does a gift of retirement savings plans work?

Canadians have accumulated billions of dollars in Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs). Often, these funds are eventually converted to annuities or Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) to produce a reliable income stream. Some individuals start taking income from their retirement plans immediately upon retirement. Others, not needing the money immediately, delay payments as long as possible. They like to continue taking advantage of the tax-sheltered growth these funds offer.

A certain percentage of individuals will die prior to spending their entire registered retirement savings. If the beneficiary is an individual other than a surviving spouse or dependents, the full value of the retirement savings remaining in the plan will be taxed as ordinary income in the year of death. In such cases, a significant percentage of the savings can be used up for taxes. All you need to do is obtain a change of beneficiary form from the plan administrator or your financial advisor and name IISD Experimental Lakes Area as beneficiary of all or a percentage of the RRSP/RRIF account.



## How does making a gift of retirement savings plans benefit you?

- Naming IISD Experimental Lakes Area as beneficiary of all, or a percentage, of your retirement savings plan allows you to make a significant commitment today towards important research that preserves and protects our freshwater supplies but postpone your donation until you pass away.
- Your estate will receive a donation receipt for the fair market value of the gift, reducing the taxes on your retirement savings plan that are payable at your death. In other words, your gift redirects your money to a favourite charity(ies) that would otherwise be lost to taxes.
- With a gift of retirement savings plans, IISD Experimental Lakes Area will receive the full value of your gift, maximizing the funds donated to support our vital research, education and advocacy in freshwater science.

Thank you for considering how you can leave a legacy through IISD Experimental Lakes Area.

## What else should you consider?

- You continue to retain full ownership and use of your retirement funds during your lifetime, even though you've named IISD Experimental Lakes Area as a beneficiary of the funds at your death.
- A gift of retirement savings is very easy to arrange. Please consult your plan administrator or financial advisor for further instructions on how to name IISD Experimental Lakes Area as a beneficiary.
- Please consult your legal and financial advisors before finalizing your decision to proceed.



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This material provides general information and is not intended to constitute or replace specific professional advice. Donors considering a legacy gift should speak to an advisor with appropriate tax and other expertise (e.g., a lawyer) to implement a strategy that achieves their objectives.

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