

Every question you asked, in your words.

The answer comes first. All amounts are in today's dollars.

CAN WE?

“Can I really stop at 60?”

Greg

Yes. Greg can stop at the end of 2026. Your money lasts until Greg is 95 and Linda is 93, in every version we tested, and no year comes up short. In 1,000 random markets, your plan worked 99 times out of 100.

“Is \$7,500 a month realistic, or are we dreaming?”

Linda

\$7,500 a month after tax is exactly the living money in your plan, until Greg is 75. Then \$6,500 a month. Both rise with prices. You could even spend about \$750 more a month, for life, and it still works about 9 times out of 10.

“Do we have to sell the house?”

Linda

No. Your plan never touches the house. It stays your backup, and it can still go to the kids.

CPP AND OAS

“Everyone tells me to take my CPP at 60. Is that right for us?”

Greg

Not for you. Your plan starts Greg's CPP and OAS at 70. CPP at 70 pays 42% more every month than at 65, and OAS pays 36% more. Both rise with prices for life, and both keep paying as long as you live.

Your RRSPs pay the bills while you wait. That is on purpose: it uses the low-tax years before CPP and OAS start.

“Why don't we both start at the same age?”

Linda

Because it works out better after tax. Linda's OAS starts at 67 and her CPP at 70. Greg's both start at 70. Your plan tried the choices and kept the one that leaves the most for the two of you and the kids. For another couple, the answer can be the opposite.

“Will the government take our OAS back?”

Greg

No. OAS is clawed back only when one person's income goes over about \$95,000 a year, in today's dollars. Your plan keeps each of you well under that. Your OAS clawback is \$0 in every year.

TAX AND THE RRSPS

“Why take money out of the RRSPs now? Shouldn't we leave them to grow?”

Linda

Because the tax comes due either way. Leave the RRSPs alone and they get forced out later, on top of CPP, OAS and the pension, at higher tax rates. Whatever is left when the second of you dies is taxed all at once.

If you did nothing, about \$100,000 in today's dollars would go to tax at the end. With the plan, that bill drops to \$0. You also pay about \$72,000 less tax over your lifetimes, in today's dollars.

“How does the money actually get to us?”

Greg

Every two weeks, plus the pension monthly. About \$2,538 lands in your chequing every two weeks from the RRSPs, after tax. Greg's pension adds about \$2,000 a month. All together, about \$7,500 a month in 2027. Your Money Moves shows every account.

“Should we keep putting money in the TFSAs?”

Linda

Yes, every January. \$7,000 each, from your joint account and Linda's investment account. Money in a TFSA grows and comes out tax-free, for life and at the end. It is the last money you spend.

WHAT IF?

“What if the market crashes right after Greg retires?”

Greg

We tested that: stocks fall 30% in 2027, the year Greg stops. Your savings would drop from about \$1.1 million to about \$849,000. You would still never be short of money, and you would not cut a dollar of spending. A bad year is a time to call Marc, not to panic.

“What happens if one of us dies first?”

Linda

The other one carries on. Greg's pension keeps paying Linda, if you pick that option on the forms. The RRSPs and TFSAs pass to the other, with no tax at that point, when the names are right. That is why the names on every account are on page 1 of Your Money Moves.

“How long do we plan for?”

Greg

Long. Your plan runs until Greg is 95 and Linda is 93, and the money is still there. We check it with you every year.

What we still need from you

Greg and Linda are a made-up couple, so there is nothing left to collect. In a real plan, this page lists anything that is still our best guess.

- **Greg's pension statement.** In a real plan we confirm the survivor option and how it rises with prices.

Numbers come from your plan model and are rounded. Today's dollars means adjusted for prices rising over time. Nothing here is a promise about markets. Questions about the plan? Email Marc any time.