

# Three Steps to Open an RESP

## STEP 1: Get your documents together

- Your Social Insurance Number (SIN) & photo identification (ID).
- Your child's SIN & ID (Birth Certificate or Permanent Resident Card).

## STEP 2: Make an Appointment

- Make an appointment at a bank or credit union. Opening an RESP can take 1 hour or more at the bank, depending on how many kids you have.

## STEP 3: Ask Questions

- Take a list of questions to the bank.
- The bank will open the RESP.
- The bank will apply for the government money and put it in the RESP.

### *Did you know?*

*You can start your child's RESP online. It takes less than 10 minutes and then the bank will call you to finish setting up the RESP in person. Go to:*

[www.startmyRESP.ca](http://www.startmyRESP.ca)

# Questions to Ask your RESP Provider

- 1) Does it cost anything to open an RESP?
- 2) Will you apply for all the **government money**\* for my kids?
- 3) Once I have opened the RESP, will I have to pay any fees? If so, how much will I have to pay, and what are the fees for?
- 4) Do I have to put money into the RESP to open it?
- 5) Do I have to make regular payments into the RESP? What happens if I cannot make regular payments?
- 6) What are my investment choices? What are the benefits or risks of each investment choice? Can the value of my investment go down?
- 7) Where does the Primary Caregiver (usually the mother) need to sign to get all the government money?
- 8) Can I withdraw my money if I need it? Are there any fees or penalties for withdrawing my money?
- 9) What does it cost if I transfer my money to a different financial institution?
- 10) When and how do I take the money out for my child's education?

\*Official terms for the government money:

**1) Canada Learning Bond (CLB)**

\$500-\$2,000 “free” money for kids born 2004 and later. For families living on lower incomes (receiving the National Child Benefit Supplement).

**2) Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG)**

20% “matched” money that you will get when you save your own money.

**3) Additional Canada Education Savings Grant (ACESG)**

Extra 10-20% “matched” money on the first \$500 you put in each year. For families living on lower or middle incomes.