



## YOUR PERFECT SAVINGS PAIR

**RRSPs for your long-term investments.**



**TFSA for your short-term savings goals.**

### Make the most of your golden years and a golden opportunity.

Setting up a savings plan for the things you want today and the lifestyle you want to maintain in the future is essential to your financial wellness. That's why we've lined up the perfect savings pair to help you achieve both.

### Invest in an RRSP and enjoy the security of a well-laid retirement plan.

Building a nest egg for your retirement years begins with good saving habits. Your annual earnings don't always determine your wealth, but how you manage your money and how much you save can. Here are **5 SmartSteps** you can take toward your own financial freedom.

**1. Start early.** The sooner you begin investing, the greater the room for growth. But don't worry if you haven't started yet, now is the perfect time to put a plan in place.

**2. The 10% Solution.** Make an effort to set aside a minimum of 10% of your earnings for savings - 5% for your long term goals and 5% for your short term goals.

**3. Pay yourself first.** Set up an RRSP PAC Plan to have a fixed amount deposited into your account each month or take advantage of your employer's Group RRSP and have the funds automatically deducted from your pay and deposited on your behalf.

**4. Borrow to save.** Get a Comtech RRSP Loan at 3.25%\* and maximize your contribution.

It's an affordable way to give your savings a boost and the money you receive from your tax refund can often offset the cost of borrowing.

**5. Get expert advice.** Our Financial Advisors will sit down with you to discuss your savings goals, review your current portfolio and offer suggestions to help you invest with confidence.

**RRSP Contribution deadline is March 1, 2010!**

### Invest in a TFSA and enjoy the freedom to keep your savings all to yourself.

The **Tax Free Savings Account** allows you to grow your money in a registered savings plan without having to pay tax on the interest you earn. This can help you reach your savings goals even faster. Plus, you can dip into your savings at anytime - without tax penalties.

With a wide range of investment options including mutual funds, term deposits, stocks and bonds, seeing your funds reach their full growth potential is even easier.

### Rich Rewards

Whether you're already on your way or you're just getting started, we have investment strategies for every age and every stage of life. Come in, call or visit us online to learn more about your savings and investment options today.

All rates subject to change without notice.  
\*Loan rate applicable for a maximum 12-month term.  
See branch for details.

## Take advantage of our



### Extended branch hours

**February 22 to 26:** 9 am to 8 pm  
**Saturday, February 27:** 9 am to 3 pm  
**Monday, March 1:** 9 am to 8 pm

### Apply by phone

**Main Branch:**  
Call Barbara at 1.800.209.7444 ext. 2204  
**Nepean Branch:**  
Call Jessie at 613.763.4313  
**Creebank Branch:**  
Call Amanda at 905.625.6662  
**Ottawa Branch:**  
Call Jon at 613.234.0450 ext. 222

### Apply online

Visit [www.comtechcu.com](http://www.comtechcu.com) and click on Applications. Complete and fax to your branch.

### RRSPs by fax

Fax the 2-Minute RRSP application to...  
**Main Branch: 416.598.0171**  
**Nepean Branch: 613.763.4307**  
**Creebank Branch: 905.625.6682**  
**Ottawa Branch: 613.234.0491**

**RRSP questions?** Go to our website and click on the help icon. Contact Sheila Bradt at 1.800.209.7444 ext. 2239 to arrange an RRSP seminar in your workplace.

## Grow your savings!

TFSA High Interest	1 year GIC	18 mo. GIC	5 year GIC
1.20%	1.75%	2.25%	3.31%



**More ways to save for FREE** Starting April 1st, we will be joining **The Exchange Network** of ATMs in order to bring you even more savings and convenience. Whether close to home, around town or anywhere in Canada and the U.S. for that matter, you can access your accounts through this vast network of ATMs for no additional cost. Just look for **The Exchange Network** logo at over 2,300 participating financial institutions and enjoy more access to your accounts, including the ability to make deposits - surcharge FREE! Visit our website March 1st for a complete list of FREE ATM locations. **Please note:** As a result of our new partnership with The Exchange, effective April 1st we will no longer be subsidizing ATM withdrawals through our 5-Star Rewards Program at non-Exchange ATMs.

# our roots

Our Foundation is Rooted in our Service

## Your partner for life.

The dress has been purchased, the church is booked, the flowers are ordered and all the other details are falling into place. Planning the perfect wedding is a magical time for a bride-to-be, but with everything from the wedding cake to limousine rental to linens to pay for, the long list of expenses adds up.

When soon-to-be-wedded member, Andrea Eurke, heard about the Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA), she decided it was a sure-fire way to make her dream wedding a reality. "I chose the TFSA over a regular Savings Account because it offered more potential for growth," Andrea explains. "My money earns interest tax free, plus there is the flexibility to withdraw the funds when I need them."

"Knowing that we have savings in place for our wedding is a BIG relief," Andrea shares. "With more and more expenses coming at us, I started to worry if we would be able to pay for the hall in the end. Having my TFSA has lifted a lot of stress off my shoulders."

With the ceremony set for June 12, 2010, Andrea and her fiancé Jonathon have a little over five months before the big day arrives. Andrea understands that saving for her wedding day is just a small part of what is to come. "My fiancé and I are building our lives together," she explains joyfully. "We're looking to purchase our first home, save for when we start a family, and even our retirement. Taking advantage of the TFSA is a great way to plan for our future."

Andrea credits the caring staff and exceptional service at Comtech with helping her and Jon feel more assured about their financial future. "Lynn and the others at the Mississauga (Creekbank) Branch have always been there for us. They take the time to understand our needs and offer solutions that work for us", she says. "They even encouraged me to open an RRSP when I joined seven years ago. Knowing that I have this in place to help with the purchase of our new home feels really good."

It looks like these two are taking SmartSteps towards their future together and are well on their way to their happily ever after.

If you have a Comtech story you would like to share, please send it to: **Sheila Bradt, Comtech Credit Union, 102 – 220 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, M5B 2H1** or e-mail [bradt@comtechcu.com](mailto:bradt@comtechcu.com).

## Break ground on your home renovations by **February 1!**

With more time spent indoors during these cold winter months you may be thinking of ways to spruce up your cozy abode with an improvement or two. Whether you dream of warm hardwood floors underfoot, cozying up to loved ones by a fireplace, or sparkly new kitchen and bathroom fixtures, now is the perfect time to make those upgrades a reality.

With only a few weeks remaining until the **Federal Government's Home Renovation Tax Credit** draws to a close, *any eligible upgrades made to your house, condo or cottage before February 1, 2010 can be claimed on your 2009 taxes for a 15% rebate to a maximum of \$1,350.* To learn more about eligible home improvement expenses go to [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca) and click on the HRTC link.

### Let us lend a helping hand.

A low cost **Equity Line of Credit** is a great borrowing option for home owners who have built up the equity in their home. You'll benefit from a preferred rate as low as Credit Union prime for the life of your line of credit, plus once you're approved the funds are available to use again and again without having to reapply. By taking advantage of the Home Renovation Tax Credit you may even offset the cost of borrowing.

**Start today!** Apply for your **Home Equity Line of Credit** in branch, over the phone or online at [comtechcu.com](http://comtechcu.com) and take advantage of this incredible offer before it disappears.



## Help us celebrate 70 years of service!

Come out to our **Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday, March 2nd and enjoy a sit-down dinner, live entertainment and an opportunity to mingle with fellow members and Credit Union staff. You'll have the chance to share your ideas, talk to our directors and learn more about Comtech. The AGM is a free event for all members! To reserve your seat, RSVP to Sheila Bradt at 416.598.1197 ext. 2239 by **Thursday, February 25, 2010**. Cancellations must be made prior to February 25th to avoid a \$55 per plate charge.

For a copy of Comtech Credit Union's 2009 Annual Report, visit us in branch, download a copy from our website under the "About Us" section or contact your branch to request a copy by mail after February 16, 2010.

At the Annual Meeting there will be By-Law changes presented for approval as a result of the new Credit Union Act. For details, please contact your branch, see our website or refer to the information slip enclosed with your statement.



## Save the date

We'll be celebrating **Comtech's 70th Anniversary** with a Summer BBQ on **August 21, 2010**. So mark your calendars and watch for details in our Spring newsletter.

## Take a scroll on our improved website

Visit our new and improved website in March, and check out some great new features. Along with a fresh look, you'll benefit from more information on our wide range of products and services, plus some great new video tutorials to help keep your finances on track. Our teen and senior members will also enjoy content designed specifically for them.

### Empowering women with WISE

Another new feature coming to our website is the **Women's Information, Solutions and Education (WISE) Network**.

This network will allow our female members to receive helpful tips and guidance on everything from buying a car to saving for their child's education to planning for their retirement years.

You'll also have the opportunity to ask questions and receive personalized advice and information.



**Tuesday, March 2, 2010**  
**5:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

**Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel**  
**525 Bay Street, Toronto**

## Happy New Year!

Wishing all of our members and their loved ones a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010.

From the Staff and Board of Directors at Comtech