

Jenn & Mike — Sample IPS

Household: Jenn & Mike

Date: February 18, 2026

Review: Annually every February (and after any major life change)

Accounts Covered: TFSAs + RRSPs + non-registered (joint)

(TRANSLATION: “This is our investing rulebook—so we don’t panic, chase fads, or get sold something expensive.”)

1) Purpose and Goals

Purpose: Convert our savings into reliable lifelong income while preserving flexibility and avoiding costly mistakes.

Primary goals:

1. Maintain lifestyle through retirement with high confidence (income we can count on).
2. Preserve capital so we have options later (health, family, travel, unexpected expenses).

2) Time Horizon: Long-term (20+ years). Even though we are near/at retirement, our money must last decades.

3) Risk Rules (*capacity + comfort*)

Risk profile: Balanced / confident. We can tolerate normal market volatility, but we will not gamble with retirement income.

If markets fall and our portfolio drops ~20% temporarily:

We will stay invested and follow our rebalancing rule and not make changes based on headlines.

Maximum acceptable temporary decline: ~20%.

If losses move materially beyond this range, we pause and reassess spending and allocation—without panic selling.

Cooling-off rule: Any major change requires 48 hours and a written reason. We do not make “same day” decisions unless necessary.

3) Target Portfolio Mix (*our default position*)

Chosen allocation: Balanced — 55% Stocks / 45% Fixed Income

Rationale (*plain English*):

We need long-term growth to keep up with inflation for decades, but we also need stability and peace of mind because we will be drawing on this money regularly.

Implementation (*simple*):

- We will use a diversified, low-cost ETF-based portfolio (or equivalent) with broad exposure for our portfolio CORE. We may utilize individual stocks and/or specialty funds for the EXPLORE portion as quality opportunities present themselves.
- Fixed income will comprise of GICs and BBB+ or higher rated bonds.
- We will avoid unnecessary complexity.

4) Rebalancing Rule (*automatic discipline*)

We will rebalance:

- **Semi-Annually each February and August, and**
- Any time stocks or bonds drift by about **5% or more** from target.

⇒ **TRANSLATION:** “Rebalancing means trimming what ran up and topping up what fell.”

5) Costs and “No-Go” List

Fee rule (non-negotiable): Total blended all-in costs should initially be **under 0.75% per year**, and ideally **0.30%–0.50% after we transition our portfolios as required.**

We will NOT buy:

- Any product with lock-ins or exit penalties.
- Anything we cannot explain in two sentences.
- Crypto, options, leveraged products, or speculative concentrated positions.
- Expensive “story products” designed to sound safe while charging high fees.

⇒ **TRANSLATION:** “If it’s complicated, it’s usually expensive.”

6) Success Definition (*how we judge outcomes*)

Success means:

- Our retirement spending is funded without stress,
- Costs stay low and transparent (we know what we pay, in dollars).
- We remain invested through normal market cycles.
- We measure progress over **3–5 years**, not month-to-month.

Sign-Off

Jenn: Jenn (signed) — February 18, 2026

Mike: Mike (signed) — February 18, 2026