WANVORA Wealth Management

FREE CHECKLIST · INVESTMENT COSTS

Total Cost Checklist: What You Really Pay to Invest

In early 2027, Canadian investment statements show the total cost of your funds in dollars for the first time. Use this checklist to read yours.

When to use it
When your 2026 annual statements arrive (January to March 2027).

How to use it
Tick each box as you go. Bring the finished checklist to your planner or accountant.

Time needed
About 30 minutes per account.

1 Find the three costs on each statement

- ☐ **Fund costs:** the management expense ratio (MER) and trading costs inside each fund, now shown in dollars.
- ☐ **Advice and dealer costs:** what your advisor and dealer were paid, including **trailing commissions** built into many mutual funds.
- ☐ **Account fees:** administration, registered plan, transfer or closing fees.

2 Add them up

Account	Fund costs ($)	Advice and dealer costs ($)	Account fees ($)	Total ($)
RRSP / RRIF				
TFSA				
Non-registered				
Other				
All accounts				

Total cost for the year	$ _____
Total value of all accounts	$ _____
Your total cost as a percentage: cost divided by value	_____ %

Why small percentages matter

Hypothetical: $200,000 invested for 25 years at 6% a year before costs grows to about $763,000 with 0.5% in costs, but about $533,000 with 2%. The difference, about $230,000, went to costs. Illustration only; returns are not guaranteed.

3 Ask these five questions

- [ ] What did I pay last year, **in dollars**, across all my accounts?
- [ ] How is my advisor paid: **by commission, by the fund, or by a fee I can see**?
- [ ] Do any of my funds pay **trailing commissions**?
- [ ] What do I get for that cost: a **written plan, tax planning, rebalancing, retirement income planning**?
- [ ] Is there a **lower-cost way** to hold the same kind of investments?

4 Judge the cost against the value

You may be getting good value if...	You may be overpaying if...
You have a written financial plan, reviewed each year	You have never seen a written plan
Your advice covers taxes, retirement income and estate	You get one call a year about performance
You know exactly how your advisor is paid	You are not sure how anyone is paid
Your portfolio is rebalanced to a stated target	Nobody can tell you your target mix

Want a second set of eyes? Book a free 15-minute call with WANVORA Wealth Management.

wanvorawealth.com/contact-us/

General information only. This checklist is not investment, tax or legal advice and does not consider your personal situation. Figures are as of November 2026 and may change. WANVORA Wealth Management.