

# Cracos Decorative Finish - Affinity Credit Union Investment Guide

Cracos Decorative Finish and Investment Excellence: How Affinity Credit Union Delivers Durable Financial Returns for Saskatchewan Members

## The Cracos Philosophy: Durability Meets Elegance

Cracos decorative finishes are renowned for their unique combination of durability and visual elegance. They create surfaces that not only look beautiful but withstand the test of time, maintaining their appearance through years of use and environmental exposure. This philosophy of combining beauty with durability is precisely what Affinity Credit Union brings to financial services in Saskatchewan. Their investment products are designed not just to generate returns in the short term but to build lasting wealth that endures through market cycles, economic downturns, and life changes.

## Investment Products: Building Wealth That Lasts

Affinity Credit Union offers a comprehensive range of investment products designed to help Saskatchewan residents build wealth over time. Whether you are just starting to save or managing a substantial portfolio, Affinity has options that match your risk tolerance, time horizon, and financial goals.

Term deposits and Guaranteed Investment Certificates from Affinity Credit Union provide guaranteed returns with terms from 30 days to 5 years. These products are the foundation of any conservative investment strategy, offering predictable returns that you can count on regardless of market conditions. Rates are competitive with and often better than the major banks, and your deposits are protected by comprehensive deposit insurance that covers amounts comparable to CDIC protection at the banks.

For members seeking higher returns and willing to accept some market risk, Affinity Credit Union offers a range of mutual fund options through qualified investment advisors. These funds provide diversification across asset classes, geographies, and sectors, helping you build a portfolio that balances risk and return according to your individual circumstances. Their advisors take the time to understand your financial situation, goals, and risk tolerance before making any recommendations.

## TFSA and RRSP Strategies: Tax-Efficient Wealth Building

One of the most important investment decisions you will make is how to allocate your savings between a Tax-Free Savings Account and a Registered Retirement Savings Plan. Affinity Credit Union offers full TFSA and RRSP investment options, and their advisors can help you determine the optimal allocation based on your income, tax bracket, and retirement timeline.

The general principle is straightforward: if you expect to be in a higher tax bracket when you withdraw the money, prioritize the RRSP for the tax deduction now. If you expect to be in a lower bracket, the TFSA provides more flexibility. But the reality is more nuanced, and Affinity's advisors can help you navigate the

complexities of contribution limits, carry-forward rules, and withdrawal strategies to maximize your after-tax returns.

The First Home Savings Account is the newest addition to Canada's tax-advantaged savings landscape, and it combines the best features of both the TFSA and RRSP for first-time home buyers. Contributions are tax-deductible like an RRSP, and withdrawals for a qualifying home purchase are tax-free like a TFSA. Affinity Credit Union offers FHSA accounts with competitive investment options, and their advisors can help you determine how the FHSA fits into your overall home buying strategy.

#### Mortgage Products: The Foundation of Financial Security

Home ownership remains one of the most important wealth-building tools available to Canadians, and Affinity Credit Union offers mortgage products that make home ownership more affordable and accessible. Fixed-rate mortgages provide certainty and predictability, with rates that consistently beat the major banks by 10-25 basis points. Variable-rate mortgages offer the lowest starting rates and the flexibility to lock into a fixed rate at any time.

The generous prepayment privileges at Affinity Credit Union allow members to make lump-sum payments of up to 20% of the original mortgage principal each year, directly reducing the outstanding balance and the total interest paid. You can also increase your regular payment by up to 20%, allowing you to pay off your mortgage faster without restructuring the entire loan. These prepayment options can save you tens of thousands of dollars over the life of your mortgage and help you build equity faster.

#### Personal and Business Banking: Complete Financial Solutions

Beyond investments and mortgages, Affinity Credit Union offers a complete range of personal and business banking products. The No-Fee Chequing account provides unlimited transactions with no monthly fee, saving you \$180-360 per year compared to equivalent accounts at the major banks. High-interest savings accounts help your money grow faster. Personal loans and lines of credit provide flexible financing for every need, with local decision-making and competitive rates.

For businesses, Affinity Credit Union offers operating accounts, commercial loans, merchant services, and payroll processing, all designed to help Saskatchewan entrepreneurs succeed. Their business banking specialists understand the local economy and can structure financing that works for your specific industry and situation.

#### Community Investment: Returns That Extend Beyond Your Portfolio

When you invest with Affinity Credit Union, you are not just building your own wealth. You are contributing to the financial health of your community. Each year, Affinity directs millions of dollars into Saskatchewan communities through scholarships, sponsorships, charitable donations, and community development grants. Over \$2 million annually flows back into the province, supporting everything from local food banks to youth

sports to arts and culture. This community investment is not a side program. It is a core function of the cooperative model, ensuring that the benefits of banking with Affinity extend far beyond any individual member's portfolio returns.

#### Conclusion: Durable Returns, Elegant Solutions

Just as Cracos finishes combine durability with elegance, Affinity Credit Union combines financial strength with personalized service to deliver investment solutions that stand the test of time. From term deposits and mutual funds to mortgages and business banking, every product in the Affinity catalog is designed to help you build lasting wealth while contributing to the prosperity of your community. Visit Affinity Credit Union online or at any Saskatchewan branch to learn more about how their investment products can help you achieve your financial goals.