

Wealth is about more than just assets. It's about independence, financial success, and the ability to meet the needs of your family and support your favourite causes. Regardless of how much wealth you've accumulated or want to accumulate, your estate plan, like any important undertaking, requires planning, skill and ongoing attention.

Estate planning enables you to plan for tomorrow. No matter what stage of life you're in, an estate plan can help simplify the transfer of assets to the next generation and protect your beneficiaries. A carefully crafted estate plan provides for the well-being and security of your loved ones upon your death. No matter what your financial situation may be, estate planning can help you protect your assets.

Benefits Of An Estate Plan

- Conservation and distribution of assets
- Provision of income for survivors
- Prevention of unnecessary economic hardship for survivors
- Minimization of excessive tax or transfer costs
- Distribution of wealth to heirs
- Estate equalization
- Possible avoidance of probate (probate not applicable in Quebec)

Insurance Can Meet Your Estate Planning Needs

Term Insurance

- Cost-effective
- Best for covering short-term debts (i.e., home or recreational property mortgage, car loan)
- Most offer built-in convertible and renewable features
- Term 100 provides level insurance protection for life (to age 100) and can pay capital gains tax liabilities at death
- Prevention of unnecessary economic hardship for survivors
- Estate equalization
- Possible avoidance of probate

Annuities

- Can ensure income for life to prevent outliving of assets
- Purchased with single lump-sum payment to provide a series of regular payments
- In later years, less interest earned as capital declines, reducing taxable portion of the payments
- Beneficiary receives proceeds as a tax-free death benefit
- Insured annuity: After-tax annuity payments cover the premiums on a life insurance policy
- Pays an income stream for a specified period or during recovery

Disability Insurance

- Pays an income stream for a specified period or during recovery

Critical Illness

- Pays a tax-free lump-sum at the first diagnosis of a number of specified illnesses or conditions
- No restrictions on what payout is used for
- Eligibility for individuals in occupations normally considered uninsurable by disability insurers
- Appropriate for high-income earners exceeding income participation limits on disability coverage
- Can be beneficial in business settings, as key person coverage, partner or shareholder insurance

How Complete Is Your Estate Plan?

Universal Life

- Permanent insurance providing savings and life insurance protection
- Flexibility to customize policy to meet individual needs
- Offers a wide range of investment and insurance protection options
- Tax-advantaged investment opportunities
- Bypasses probate

Whole Life Insurance

- Insurance protection until death
- Makes funds available for final expenses, covers capital gains taxes, or the transfer of a business
- Builds up cash values over span of contract
- Cost is spread evenly over the life of the policy
- Access to funds accumulating in reserve

Take Advantage Of Our Expertise

Your CIBC Wood Gundy Investment Advisor understands the financial decisions you need to make, and more importantly, the impact on future generations. To begin a discussion of your comprehensive estate planning needs, contact your CIBC Wood Gundy Investment Advisor, who can introduce you to a qualified Estate Planning Specialist (Financial Security Advisor in Quebec).

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