

## Business

# Will planning is not only for senior citizens

Many of us think that preparing a will is only a concern for seniors.

Nothing can be further from the truth. Whether you drive a car or play sports, it is important to think about what can happen in the event of an injury or illness.

Your will does not take effect until your death.

Your spouse or children do not have the right to act

## Foreign investing made easy for all

Diversifying investments within a portfolio is a wise decision. Holding a variety of asset classes (stocks, bonds, GICs), from a variety of sources (industries, governments, institutions), can reduce your risk and potentially improve your returns.

Now a third dimension of this technique is emerging — international diversification.

Canada offers many excellent investment choices, but it represents less than three per cent of the global market. If you look at the global stock market performance since 1970, Japan and Hong Kong have outperformed the Canadian stock market from anywhere from nine to 13 per cent.

One of the easiest ways to invest in foreign markets is through professionally managed international mutual funds. Like all your investment purchases, foreign funds should meet your overall investment objectives of safety, income or growth.

If you intend to hold these funds in your RRSP, be aware that Revenue Canada won't allow foreign investments to make up more than 20 per cent of the "book value" of your RRSP. Amounts beyond 20 per cent are subject to penalties of one per cent per month.

Some mutual fund companies will monitor your RRSP account daily or monthly to make sure your foreign content does not exceed the 20 per cent limit. Once you have exceeded the limit, procedures vary from company to company.

for you in respect to your financial affairs. If you own a home with your spouse, you should be aware that the law refers to it as your matrimonial home. This special designation means that both you and your spouse must be able to sign any deed or mortgage.

If you suffer from an injury and are in the midst of selling your home, how can you sign your name? What

will give your spouse the power to sign for you?

The easiest solution is to have in place an Encompassing Power of Attorney for Property, whereby you grant your spouse the power to sign for you in the event of your incapacity. The other option is making your spouse apply to the Public Guardian and Trustee.



## INVESTMENT INSIGHT

**Q:** When I began my RRSP Portfolio, I maximized my foreign content at 20% to take advantage of reduced risk, reduced volatility and potential for above average returns. My problem is that my Canadian investments have appreciated beyond their book value such that my foreign content now represents only 16% of my RSP. How can I bring my foreign content back to the 20% level?

**A:** The foreign content limit of your RRSP is determined by the total book value of your plan. Many times, investments will increase in market value but this may not increase their book value, thereby limiting your ability to maintain your 20% foreign content limit. The result can be a reduced foreign content in your RSP and greater exposure to the ups and downs of the Canadian Financial Markets.

To rectify this situation, sell your appreciated Canadian investments. The proceeds of the sale will be the new book value resulting in an increased overall book value for your RSP. With the proceeds you can repurchase any RSP eligible Canadian investment including the one you just sold, and allocate a portion of the investable proceeds to a qualified foreign investment. Your new foreign content limit will be based on 20% of the new book value of your RSP.

Beware of any fees associated with selling any of your investments. If you own mutual funds you should be able to park the funds in a money market account at no cost until a suitable investment is found.

You can fax your questions to Investment Insight at 294-8880 or call Dan Galszeczy or John Niekraszewicz of Fortune Financial Corp., Markham, 294-1200.

### INVESTMENT WORKSHOP FOR INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS

#### AGF FAMILY OF MUTUAL FUNDS MAXIMIZE GROWTH IN RRSP'S AND RRIF'S IN RETIREMENT *A Complimentary Information Seminar*

Greg Vanderburgh, AGF Regional Sales Manager, will discuss how core holdings in Canadian Resource Equities can generate growth.

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