

# 2021 | Tax Planning Opportunities

These important tax and financial planning moves can help prepare you for the upcoming tax season and better align your finances with your short- and long-term goals.



## Key Takeaways

While tax and financial planning should take place all year long, there are several actionable strategies to consider before year-end deadlines.

Important life events can have financial implications and should be discussed with your tax and financial advisor.

Certain investments generate more taxable distributions than others, so work with your advisor and tax professionals to evaluate your investments and after-tax returns.

## Introduction

The continuing pandemic has been the main driver behind many government tax and spending policies designed to assist individuals and businesses negatively impacted by the unpredictable economic situation. There has been much speculation about income tax increases in future years to recover pandemic costs. Whether those increases result in changes to capital gains inclusion rates, personal tax rate increases, adjustments to the principal residence exemption, corporate tax rate increases, or some other tax measures to target extreme wealth inequality, no one can predict the changes with any certainty. The information contained in this document is accurate at the time of writing (October 2021) and the Canadian government may introduce new tax measures before the end of the year.

Despite the uncertainty of future tax policies, taxpayers can take actions based on the tax legislation that is in place today before federal and provincial governments introduce changes. With deadlines fast approaching, now is the time to take advantage of tax-deferred growth opportunities, tax-advantaged investments, and charitable-giving opportunities, among other strategies, to maximize deductions and credits for your tax situation. Reviewing your investments in light of your goals, the tax policy environment, and the economic landscape can help you and your advisor see where adjustments need to be made to position yourself for 2022 and beyond.

## Important dates to remember

<b>December 2021</b>	<b>15</b>	Fourth quarter tax instalment payment for 2021 due.
	<b>29</b>	Last day to sell securities on Canadian markets to realize a gain or loss. Settlement is T+2 days.
	<b>29</b>	Last day to sell securities on U.S. markets to realize a gain or loss. Settlement is T+2 days.
	<b>31</b>	Last day to pay prescribed rate loan interest to deduct in 2021.
	<b>31</b>	Last day to complete charitable contributions for 2021; allow enough time to complete donations that may require additional lead time, such as securities donations.
	<b>31</b>	Last day to pay childcare, medical, and tuition expenses to claim deduction or credit on the 2021 T1.
	<b>31</b>	Annual tax instalment payment for 2021 due for farming and fishing income.
<b>January 2022</b>	<b>30</b>	Must pay prescribed rate loan interest by this date to maintain income splitting (deductible in 2022).
<b>February 2022</b>	<b>28</b>	Deadline for employers to send T4 receipts to individuals.
<b>March 2022</b>	<b>1</b>	Deadline to contribute to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan to claim as a 2021 deduction.
	<b>15</b>	First quarter tax instalment payment for 2022 due.
	<b>31</b>	Deadline for paying balance owing for Form T1-OVP if you made excess RRSP contributions in 2021.
	<b>31</b>	T3 trust tax return deadline for trusts with a December 31 year-end.
<b>May 2022</b>	<b>2</b>	Deadline to pay your 2021 taxes and file your 2021 Individual T1 tax return.
<b>June 2022</b>	<b>15</b>	Deadline to file your 2021 Individual T1 tax return if you or your spouse earned self-employment income. Tax payment deadline remains April 30, 2022.
	<b>15</b>	Second quarter tax instalment payment for 2022 due.
	<b>30</b>	Deadline to file your TFSA return RC243 and pay taxes if you made excess contributions in 2021.
<b>September 2022</b>	<b>15</b>	Third quarter tax instalment payment for 2022 due.
<b>October 2022</b>	<b>1</b>	Last day to buy or build your qualifying home if you made a Home Buyers' Plan withdrawal from your RRSP in 2021.



## Gather Information for Year-End Investment Tax Planning

1. Review year to date realized gain/loss portfolio statements to estimate your expected net taxable gains or deductible losses for 2021.
2. Analyze unrealized gain/loss portfolio statements of current holdings to consider triggering gains or losses in 2021 or deferring to future years.
3. Obtain recent account statements with year to date taxable investment income to estimate any income taxes due in excess of your withholding taxes and quarterly tax instalments.
4. Obtain recent account statements with year to date investment management fees and interest to estimate income tax deductions.
5. Calculate your total RRSP contributions to employer, bank, and brokerage accounts to ensure you did not contribute in excess of your 2021 RRSP contribution room. Review against your 2020 CRA Notice of Assessment RRSP available contribution room for 2021, not the RRSP deduction limit for 2021. Withdraw excess contributions immediately to stop penalties from accruing further. Consider maximizing RRSP contributions to reduce current or future taxes and earn tax-deferred investment income.
6. Calculate your total year to date TFSA contributions during 2021 to ensure you did not contribute in excess of your 2021 TFSA contribution room. Withdraw excess contributions immediately to stop penalties from accruing further. Consider maximizing TFSA contributions to earn tax-free investment income.
7. Calculate your total year to date RESP contributions during 2021 to maximize annual Canada Education Savings Grants (CESG) for the year and any grant entitlements carried forward.
8. Calculate your total year to date RDSP contributions during 2021 to maximize annual Canada Disability Savings Grants (CDSG) for the year and any grant entitlements carried forward.

## Moves to Consider

Here are important items to think about in each of the major planning categories. Keep in mind the ideas listed here are conversation starters for most investors. You and your advisor should determine next steps for your own situation.

## Income Tax Planning

1. Consider loaning investment funds to your spouse at the prescribed interest rate to split investment income if one spouse earns significantly more taxable income than the other.

**TIP:** The CRA prescribed rate for spousal loans is currently set at 1%. Lock in the 1% interest rate indefinitely for the life of the loan. The low 1% interest rate provides income-splitting benefits if the investment returns on the loan proceeds are expected to greatly exceed 1%. Also consider using a prescribed rate loan to split income with your children using a family trust.

2. Consider exercising employer stock options in 2021 if you expect your personal tax rates to increase. The federal government enacted a new tax measure to limit the 50% stock option deduction for large company stock options granted after June 30, 2021. The new rule imposes a \$200,000 annual vesting limit based on the value of the option's underlying shares at grant date.
3. Complete TFSA withdrawals by December 31, 2021 to restore TFSA contribution room on January 1, 2022. If you require funds from your TFSA or want to rebalance the holdings by withdrawing securities in kind, make the withdrawal before December 31, 2021 rather than in 2022 to ensure the withdrawal value is added back to your contribution room. Asset values withdrawn in 2021 can be replaced as of January 1, 2022.

**TIP:** Rebalance your TFSA holdings by contributing income-producing Canadian securities "in kind" into your TFSA. Any accrued capital gains will be taxable using the value at the contribution date. Capital losses are not claimable. Therefore, do not contribute securities in a loss position to your TFSA.

4. Ensure every family member age 18 and over has maximized contributions to their TFSA account.

**TIP:** The highest income earner can split income by gifting funds to each eligible family member to open their own TFSA account and contribute the maximum amounts. The cumulative maximum to the end of 2021 is \$75,500 for individuals who were age 18 and over in 2009. There is no attribution on TFSA income if the funds are gifted because the income earned is tax-free. Withdrawals from and income earned inside a TFSA do not affect income tested benefits such as OAS and GST/HST credits.

**Note:** The TFSA account holder must be 18 or older and a Canadian resident to receive TFSA contribution room each year. Age of majority for the province of residence is required to open an investment brokerage TFSA.

5. Open a registered disability savings plan (RDSP) if you or your child qualifies for the disability tax credit. The federal government will match 100% to 300% of the contributions made to an RDSP depending on the level of family income, up to a lifetime maximum of \$90,000 in total grants. The lifetime contribution maximum is \$200,000 per beneficiary, and the income and growth are tax deferred.
6. Talk to your employer about deducting home office expenses. With many employees working from home during the pandemic, your employer may provide Form T2200 so that you may deduct certain home office expenses. The current legislation requires your employment contract to stipulate that you are responsible for paying your own home expenses. It is expected the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will extend the temporary flat-rate method that allows eligible employees to deduct \$2 for each home workday and increase the maximum deduction from \$400 for 2020 to \$500 for 2021.

Year	TFSA Contribution Limit
2009	\$5,000
2010	\$5,000
2011	\$5,000
2012	\$5,000
2013	\$5,500
2014	\$5,500
2015	\$10,000
2016	\$5,500
2017	\$5,500
2018	\$5,500
2019	\$6,000
2020	\$6,000
2021	\$6,000
<b>Total cumulative contributions</b>	<b>\$75,500</b>



## Planning for New Taxes

1. Complete purchases of new luxury vehicles before the end of 2021 to avoid the new tax on certain luxury goods. The government proposed a tax on the retail sale of new luxury cars and personal aircraft priced over \$100,000 and boats priced over \$250,000 (before GST/HST and provincial sales tax). The proposed tax rate is the lesser of 10% of the value and 20% of the value exceeding the price threshold. GST/HST applies to the final sale price, inclusive of the proposed tax.
2. During the election, the Liberals proposed a new minimum tax to require individuals with taxable income in the top income tax bracket to pay at least 15% federal tax on taxable income. Without any further details on this proposal, the government likely intends to capture more tax beyond the existing minimum tax rules to limit significant deductions and credits, such as charitable donations, dividend tax credits, and medical expense credits.
3. Consider renting out your property if you are a foreign owner of Canadian residential real estate to avoid the underused housing tax. Starting in 2022, the government intends to implement a national annual 1% tax on the value of non-resident, non-Canadian owned residential real estate that the government considers vacant or underused. Non-resident property owners should also take note of any empty homes taxes imposed at the municipal and provincial levels.



## Investment Tax Planning

1. Review your portfolio's tax efficiency. Simply put, tax efficiency is measured by how much of an investment's return remains after taxes are paid. Certain investments generate more taxable distributions than others. Consider rebalancing your portfolio to include more tax-advantaged investments such as Canadian dividend-paying shares and investments that allocate capital gains, especially in higher tax brackets. Work with your advisor to evaluate your investments and after-tax returns.

**TIP:** When rebalancing, consider using new money coming into the account versus selling off certain investments to avoid incurring unnecessary capital gains taxes.

2. Review your tax-efficient placement of foreign investments between your investment, TFSA, and retirement accounts. Ensure your TFSA accounts do not hold investments that are subject to foreign withholding tax which eliminates the tax-free benefit of the TFSA account. Consider holding certain dividend-paying foreign securities outside your RRSP/RRIF accounts if the income is subject to withholding tax because the dividend will be taxed a second time upon withdrawal from the plan. Ensure lower treaty withholding rates are applied to foreign investments in your taxable investment account, where applicable.
3. Work with your tax advisor to determine the best time to realize capital gains and/or harvest capital losses. Consider offsetting investment gains with losses, as appropriate, to reduce your overall tax liability. If you expect capital gains tax rates to increase in the future, consider deferring loss realizations to future taxation years. Be aware of "superficial loss" rules that stop you from deducting capital losses on the sale of a particular security if you initiate a similar position within a 61-day period (30 days before the sale date and 30 days after the sale date). The rules apply across your and your spouse's portfolios, in both taxable and non-taxable accounts. For example, you cannot liquidate a position in one account and establish a similar position in your RRSP and expect to claim a loss.

**TIP:** Use the superficial loss rules to transfer a capital loss upon disposition to a spouse by having the spouse purchase the same security within 30 days of the disposition. As long as the purchasing spouse holds the security for at least 30 days, the capital loss will be denied to the selling spouse and added to the adjusted cost base of the purchasing spouse.

## Tax-deferred Growth Opportunities



### Registered Retirement Savings Plan

Defer up to 18% of your earned income with a limit of \$27,830 for 2021 when you make a contribution to your RRSP.



### Registered Education Savings Plan

Investing in an RESP account for your children or grandchildren allows you to defer taxes on up to \$50,000 per child. The growth and income are taxed in the beneficiary's hands when they are enrolled in a qualifying educational program. The beneficiary may not even pay any tax on the RESP growth. The federal government will also contribute up to \$7,200 in grants to the RESP.



### Index Funds

Index funds do not trigger frequent capital gains and much of the growth is tax deferred until the index fund units are sold.



### Life Insurance

Accumulating cash value in life insurance can also offer tax-deferred growth and tax-advantaged retirement income.

## Financial Planning

While each individual's needs are unique, many people have similar planning objectives – whether to ensure they have the income they need today to plan for retirement tomorrow or to grow their assets.

1. Discuss important life changes with your tax and financial/investment advisors. The pandemic has thrown many folks off track concerning their financial plan with unforeseen job losses and business revenue disruptions. When it comes to your financial plan, it is critical to review your short- and long-term goals, planning accordingly and stress testing your plan under different scenarios. As this is an ongoing process, make some time throughout the year to have planning conversations with your financial/investment advisor.

**TIP:** Review the federal COVID-19 Economic Response Plan website to claim any benefit entitlements applicable to your situation before the deadlines pass: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>. Remember to also check your provincial government's website to claim any additional benefits available to you.

2. Review your asset allocation to ensure it's still geared toward your goals and tolerance for risk. Risk tolerance may change based on your net worth, age, income needs, financial goals, and various other considerations. Review your holdings and your overall asset allocation then make adjustments and rebalance as necessary. Don't forget to do this for your company-sponsored retirement accounts, too. "Set it and forget it" shouldn't be the default for your RRSP investments.

**TIP:** Some investments may be better suited for particular account types from a tax standpoint. Be sure to discuss with your tax professionals.

3. Trustees of inter vivos trusts may want to consider distributing all or most trust income before December 31, 2021 to income beneficiaries. Income retained in the trust will be subject to the top federal and provincial tax rates if not distributed or allocated out to the beneficiaries. It's important to note, however, that decisions should be made within the boundaries of the trust's governing instrument and provincial law. Beware of the tax on split income rules that apply to trust income originating from a related business corporation where the beneficiary did not make a contribution to the business.

**TIP:** If the tax on split income rules do not apply to your trust, rather than accumulating income inside the trust, distribute or allocate the income (in line with trust terms and fiduciary duties) to beneficiaries, particularly those below the basic personal exemption. This essentially shifts the income and the resulting income tax burden from the trust to the beneficiary.

**NEW:** Canadian trusts with no income earned or realized in the year must now file an annual T3 trust tax return with CRA for trust taxation years ending on or after December 31, 2021. Furthermore, trusts must report additional information on all trustees, beneficiaries, settlors, and each person who can exert control or override trustee decisions over the allocation of income or capital of the trust. The additional information includes the name, address, date of birth, tax residence, and taxpayer identification number (e.g. SIN, TN, BN) of each party.

Some exceptions to the new reporting requirements include:

- graduated rate estates and qualified disability trusts,
- trusts that have been in existence for less than three months at the end of the year, and
- trusts that hold less than \$50,000 in assets throughout the taxation year, provided the holdings are confined to deposits, government debt obligations, and listed securities.

Speak to your accountant about the application of these new requirements to your trust. Raymond James clients can engage our Tax Preparation Services to prepare annual T3 trust tax returns.



## Retirement Planning

1. Maximize your retirement contributions to take advantage of tax deferred growth if you're still working. Many companies allow you to arrange automatic contributions each pay period and provide employer matching contributions.

**TIP:** Tax-deferred growth is even more advantageous when your current marginal tax rates are higher than your expected marginal tax rates in retirement.

2. Determine if you need to convert your RRSP to a RRIF. Individuals have until the end of the year they turn age 71 to convert their RRSP accounts into a RRIF account.

**TIP:** Turning 71? If you are earning RRSP contribution room during 2021, consider making a 2022 RRSP contribution in December 2021 based on your 2021 earned income. The contribution in excess of your 2021 contribution room will be subject to a 1% penalty for one month, but it will provide for an RRSP deduction in 2022 or future years. Alternatively, if your spouse is under age 71, make tax deductible spousal contributions to their spousal RRSP.

3. Consider whether you are going to withdraw your non-registered investment assets, TFSA assets, or RRIF assets to fund retirement and to minimize tax and OAS clawbacks. Work with your financial/investment advisor to project a withdrawal strategy to maximize after-tax wealth over your lifetime.

**TIP:** Consider converting a portion of your RRSP to a RRIF starting at age 65 to take advantage of the pension income credit that shelters \$2,000 of pension income from federal tax if you have no other pension income.

4. Evaluate the benefit of CPP sharing and maximize pension income splitting. Spouses who are both at least 60 years of age can apply to share their CPP to split income evenly. Couples can also elect to split up to 50% of pension income on their personal tax returns to take advantage of the pension credit. The ability to split pension income depends on the type of pension income and whether the pension earner is under age 65 or is age 65 or over.

**TIP:** Discuss the pros and cons of taking CPP early with your financial/investment advisor and planning professional.

5. Claim home accessibility renovations. Seniors 65 years of age or over can claim a federal tax credit equal to 15% of eligible home renovation expenses (\$10,000 maximum) which improve access, mobility, and functionality within the dwelling. Individuals eligible for the federal disability tax credit may also claim home accessibility renovation expenses at any age. Certain provinces may also grant a similar credit against provincial taxes.

## Registered Plan Contribution Limits

The RRSP contribution limit for 2021 is 18% of earned income up to a maximum of \$27,830.

The TFSA contribution limit for 2021 is \$6,000. The cumulative TFSA limit is \$75,500 up to the end of 2021.

The RESP lifetime contribution limit is \$50,000 per beneficiary.



## Education Planning

1. Explore your education funding options, which include Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) accounts and In Trust for Minor accounts which both offer flexible investment options. Consider establishing an RESP account if you haven't already, and contribute a minimum of \$5,000 before year-end to receive the maximum grant for the current and prior year (\$1,000) from the federal government. Raymond James clients have access to all of the available provincial grants. Starting early and saving often is always a good bet.

**TIP:** British Columbia offers an additional \$1,200 training and education savings grant for RESP beneficiaries born after 2006 and no matching contributions are required to obtain the grant. Quebec offers an additional 10% grant up to \$250 per year with a lifetime maximum of \$3,600.

2. Superfund your RESP account to maximize tax-deferred growth over the life of the RESP. Take full advantage of the \$50,000 lifetime contribution limit if you can fully fund the account now. If the growth is compounded for 18 years, the increase in the value of the account will most likely exceed the foregone grants.

**TIP:** A one-time \$50,000 contribution made at age 1 will grow to \$121,534 by age 18 at a 5% rate of return. Compare that balance to annual contributions of \$3,125 from age 1 to 16 which would only equal \$98,333 by age 18, even with the maximum grants of \$7,200.

3. Discuss alternative ways to fund future education with your financial/investment advisor. If you have already maximized your family's RESP contributions, consider using an In Trust for Minor account to earn capital gains income that is taxable in the minor's hands to further reduce tax on investment income. You can also invest Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payments in an In Trust for Minor account to save for education and other expenses. The income earned from CCB payments is not attributed back to the parent for income tax reporting purposes.
4. When the student is enrolled in a qualifying educational program, withdraw enough educational assistance payments (EAPs) to use up the student's personal tax credits. There is no limit on the amount of EAPs paid out of the RESP after the first 13 consecutive weeks while they remain enrolled in a qualifying education program.

**TIP:** Students attending a post-secondary institution outside Canada can receive EAPs as long as the course is at least 13 consecutive weeks.

## Additional Tax Considerations for U.S. Citizens

1. Consider locking in all or part of your currently available U.S. gift and generation-skipping transfer tax exemption. The \$11,700,000 USD (2021) base exclusion amount could be reduced as early as January 1, 2022 if U.S. lawmakers pass proposed legislation to reduce the exemption to one half of the existing exemption. Regardless of pending legislation, the current tax law schedules the exemption to return to \$5,000,000 as of 2026 (indexed to inflation). Do not miss the opportunity to use the current exemption if you expect your estate to be worth more than the reduced exemption when you die.

**TIP:** Gifts you give to adult children are not subject to Canadian tax attribution rules, but may trigger Canadian capital gains if you give assets that have increased in value from your Canadian cost.

2. Review asset valuations using U.S. cost basis calculations. The most recent tax proposals do not include an elimination of the step-up in cost basis at death. Consider revisiting your original estate plan to determine if gifting assets during your lifetime will minimize U.S. estate tax on wealth transfers.
3. Remember to exclude your Economic Impact Payments from your Canadian income. A Canadian tax ruling indicates the payments represent U.S. tax credits and are not likely to be considered taxable income on your personal T1 tax return.
4. Consider gifting ownership of your principal residence to your non-U.S. spouse to avoid U.S. capital gains tax on the actual sale of your home. U.S. citizens can only exclude up to \$250,000 USD of capital gain from U.S. income tax, unlike in Canada which provides an unlimited capital gains exemption for a designated principal residence.

**TIP:** Use your remaining gift exemption to eliminate any U.S. gift tax on the transaction. U.S. citizens have \$11,700,000 USD available in 2021 if they have never made any reportable gifts in the past. Lifetime gifts will reduce your estate tax exemption in effect at the time of your death.



## Estate Planning and Charitable Giving

1. Review and update estate plans and documents to reflect your current wishes. Life events such as divorce, separation, death, births, and a move to a new province or country require a review of your current estate plan.
2. Consider making gifts to your adult children during your lifetime. These gifts will reduce the size of your estate subject to probate fees and reduce capital gains subject to disposition at death. The pandemic may have devalued certain assets, making them more attractive for gifting to minimize capital gains on the gift. Document the gifts to ensure they do not form part of the estate and cannot be contested.
3. Review designated beneficiaries on registered accounts. Ensure the designations are current and your spouse is designated as the successor annuitant/holder where appropriate (on RRIFs and TFSAs). Add contingent beneficiaries in case the designated individual pre-deceases you or the account owner becomes mentally incapacitated and cannot change the beneficiaries.
4. Review the legal titling on all your accounts and property to ensure they reflect your current wishes and family dynamics. Consider methods to reduce probate fees, such as joint ownership, alter-ego trusts, life insurance, and gifting assets before death.
5. Give to charities close to your heart, but do so strategically to reduce your tax liability. Consider whether a trust or a Raymond James Charitable Giving Fund will help you meet your legacy and tax-savings objectives.
6. Think strategically about your estate plan. Transferring assets to a living trust (inter vivos) for the benefit of your heir(s) allows you to ensure your estate distribution goes according to your desires and offers several advantages:
  - Future appreciation of these assets is removed from your estate.
  - Income may be shifted to beneficiaries in a lower income tax bracket.
  - Transferred assets may be protected from potential creditors, lawsuits, or divorce proceedings.
  - Assets held within the trust will bypass the probate process and maintain your privacy.
  - Provides for contingent management of the assets if you become mentally incapacitated and can no longer make final decisions.



## Estate Planning and Charitable Giving Tips

- ▶ Give appreciated securities instead of cash to avoid capital gains to reduce your overall tax liability.
- ▶ Establish a charitable giving fund account to claim a current income tax credit. You can choose the charities to benefit at a later date. For more information, visit [rjcfoundation.ca](http://rjcfoundation.ca).
- ▶ Make provisions in your will to direct funds to specific charities to reduce taxes at death. Allow your estate administrator the discretion to donate gifts in-kind to charities rather than only cash to maximize tax benefits.
- ▶ Charitable giving can reduce your tax burden and also provides a sense of satisfaction by benefiting your favourite causes.

## Business Owners

1. Review all the federal and provincial COVID assistance programs available. The federal government has provided several supports to businesses affected by the pandemic through wage subsidies, loan programs, and rent relief. If you are eligible for relief, ensure you claim your benefits before the deadlines. Visit the federal website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>. Remember to check your provincial government website for additional relief benefits your business may claim.

2. Evaluate your salary dividend mix to minimize overall personal and corporate tax, while meeting your cash flow requirements and avoiding the punitive tax on split income rules for family member shareholders. Reasonable salaries paid to family members working in the business are not affected by the tax on split income rules.

**TIP:** Determine if any shareholders are affected by the tax on split income rules. Pay out capital dividends and repay shareholder loans as tax-free sources of cash. Pay out taxable dividends if your corporation has a refundable dividend tax balance (RDTOH) to recover corporate taxes. Consider the impact of any possible federal and provincial tax rate changes that affect business and investment taxable income.

3. Determine how to minimize passive investment income if the corporation earns active business income. A Canadian-controlled private corporation (and any associated companies) may be subject to significantly higher tax rates on active business income when adjusted aggregate investment income exceeds \$50,000. The \$500,000 small business deduction limit will be reduced by \$5 for every \$1 the corporation's investment income exceeds \$50,000 for the previous taxation year. This means that if a corporation with a December 31, 2021 year-end exceeds \$50,000 in taxable passive income in the fiscal year, it may be subject to higher tax rates on active business income for the following fiscal year.

**TIP:** Consider investment and capital gain/loss realization strategies to keep investment income below the \$50,000 threshold. Consult with your corporate tax accountant to determine the impact, if any, on active income earned inside your corporation. Key shareholders with a history of receiving salary should consider setting up an Individual Pension Plan (IPP) to shift the investments out of the corporation. Corporate-owned life insurance may also provide a solution to reducing investment income. Contact your financial/investment advisor to discuss investment strategies to manage investment income types earned inside your corporation.

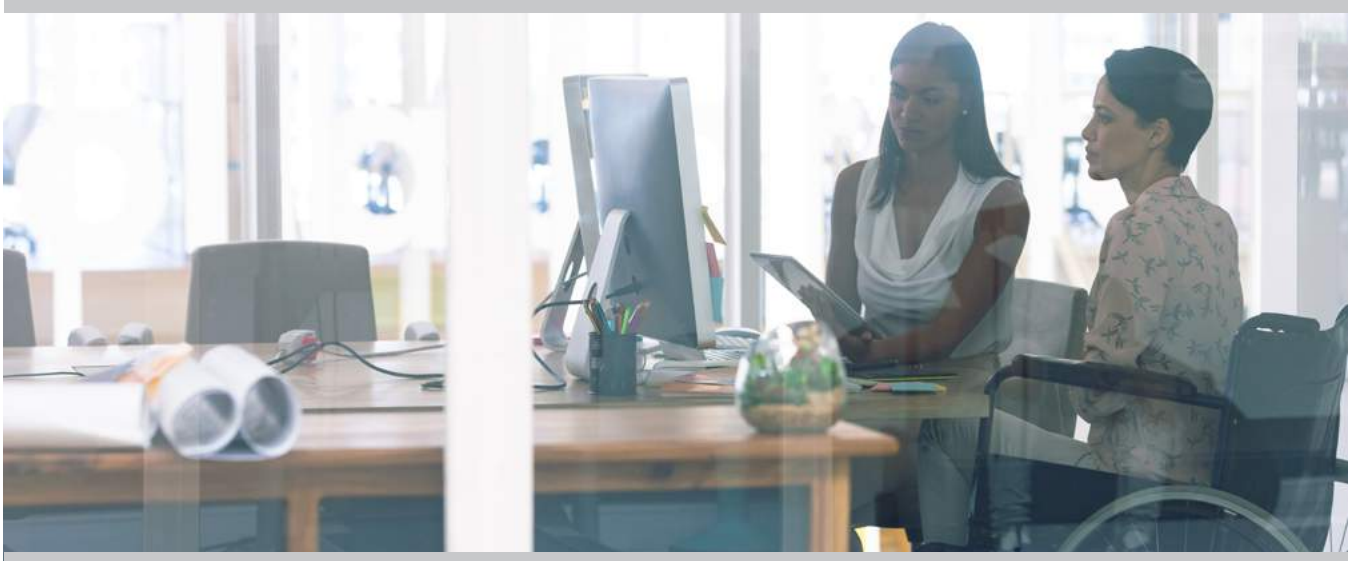
4. Review your business succession plan and the potential tax impact upon your death. Review your shareholder agreements to ensure your rights are protected and to avoid shareholder disputes after your passing. Determine whether it is an appropriate time to freeze the company in order to pass future value to your heirs. Evaluate your ability to claim the \$892,218 (2021) lifetime capital gains exemption upon the sale of your small business shares or upon your death.

**TIP:** The passage of Bill 208 in June 2021 may provide a window of opportunity for you to pass your active businesses to your children and grandchildren to make use of your lifetime capital gains exemption. Discuss this opportunity with your corporate tax advisor as soon as possible because the federal government intends to amend the new rules to prevent unintended loopholes.

5. Consider purchasing capital property for your business that is eligible for immediate expensing. Certain property acquisitions on or after April 19, 2021 that become available for use before January 1, 2024 are eligible up to a maximum amount of \$1.5 million per taxation year. The limit is shared among associated members of a group of Canadian-Controlled Private Corporations (CCPCs).



# Work with your Financial/Investment Advisor



## Make necessary adjustments:

Think strategically about what changes need to be made to best position you to achieve your goals.

Get organized: Collect all important tax and financial documents to prepare for a thorough year-end review.

Be open: Discuss all aspects of your financial life, including any major changes you anticipate.

Take action before year-end.

Despite what may be happening in the markets and the overall economy, there are several key actions you can take at year-end to help you get a better grasp of where you stand financially. A year-end review with your professional advisors also helps ensure you're on track to meet your goals and helps identify areas in need of adjustment so your plan can evolve as your needs change.

Take the time now to talk about those changing needs, so you and your advisors fully understand where you are and where you want to go.

These important tax and financial planning moves can help prepare you for the upcoming tax season and better align your finances with your short- and long-term goals.

**LIFE WELL PLANNED.**

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