



Estate planning

For my family



To help us
talk about
estate planning

canada **life**™



Let's talk as a family

When we talk about potentially difficult topics, like wills and inheritances, we give a valuable gift to our future selves and our family.

By talking about the estate plan now, we can prevent future stress and worry. The important thing is to talk about this together.



Here are some topics to discuss with your family. You can use them to help you talk about estate planning.

Of course, not every topic applies to every family. You can adapt them to your situation.

Let's talk about what to do now



Estate planning is arranging my affairs so that when I die, my property is preserved and distributed the way I want. Estate planning is a process that helps us today, by reducing stress and uncertainty.

Sharing my plan



Possible topics

- I want to share my plan with you now. I want to avoid any surprises and stress, so we can focus on the present and not worry about the future.
- I may not share all details of my plan with everyone. But I want you to know my overall goals and approach.
- I've created my plan with help from my professional advisors. I may ask some of you to meet them, in case you want to contact them in the future.

Getting your input and feedback



Possible topics

- I may ask you for input on specific parts of my plan.
- I'm open to your suggestions. If you have specific wishes or expectations – or a sentimental attachment to some object, or ideas about different ways to achieve my goals – I encourage you to let me know. You can tell me in a family meeting or privately.



Changing my plan



Possible topics

- This is my plan for now. It's not written in stone.
- As events occur and things change, I'll update my plan.

If I'm incapacitated



Possible topics

- I may at some point become incapacitated. I want us to be prepared for this possibility.
- I plan to authorize someone to make financial decisions and someone to make decisions about my health and personal care, if I become incapacitated.
- I need you to support the people I name to make these decisions. I'd like you to help them make the best possible decisions, in line with my own wishes. If you don't know them, we can arrange for you to meet.

Let's talk about what to do after I die



I want you to know my wishes for my funeral, burial or cremation, and any arrangements I've already made. I want you to know my wishes about donating my organs or body.

Help my executor settle my estate



Possible topics

- After I die, my executor (or liquidator in Quebec) must gather my assets, pay off any debts, file tax returns and distribute property in accordance with my will.
- I need you to support the person I name as my executor. Give them any documents and information they need to settle my estate smoothly. If you don't know them, we can arrange for you to meet.

Revisit your own plans



Possible topics

- After I die, it may be a good time to review your financial situation with your advisor. Take a fresh look at your immediate and long-term needs at that time.
- Decide the best way to use any assets you receive from the estate or from life insurance.
- For example, you may want to invest the assets to reach specific goals. Or you may want to provide yourself with a guaranteed income.
- Once you decide on your priorities, ask your advisor for strategies to achieve them.

A photograph of two men in a workshop. The man on the left is older, with grey hair and a goatee, wearing a light blue denim shirt and dark blue overalls. He is looking towards the man on the right. The man on the right is younger, with a beard, wearing a light-colored shirt and dark blue overalls. The background shows shelves with various tools and supplies.

Moving forward

I'm glad, as I hope you are,
that we talked about this now,
instead of later or not at all.

Estate planning, done right,
helps each of us and our family
be more confident about
the future.



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