

Identify Strategies to Reduce Estate Taxes

Stewart Financial Services can help identify your options for reducing taxes and probate fees. Some strategies include:

- ▶ Keep certain assets out of your estate. As long as you have named a beneficiary, Life Insurance policies and RRSPs/RRIFs will not be considered part of your estate for probate fees.
- ▶ Buy Life Insurance to cover estate taxes. Life insurance can provide income for your dependents, pay for your grandchildren's education, pay for final expenses and offset capital gains taxes.
- ▶ Consider setting up a spousal or family trust to avoid capital gains taxes.
- ▶ Include tax-oriented clauses in your will, such as asking your estate to make an RRSP contribution to your spouse's RRSP for that year if permitted. This will help reduce your final income and tax bill.
- ▶ Charitable bequests can provide significant tax savings for your estate. But instead of selling your assets and making a cash donation to your favourite charity, consider taking out a life insurance policy or donating securities directly to avoid capital gains tax.