

Val Wilson



Fiscal Designing & You!

Remember the first car you ordered direct from the factory? You got to choose your auto's options, from power to paint!

Designing your fiscal vehicle can give you the same thrill. And determining the direction you want your finances to take is an excellent use of your energy for your long-term gain.

Peter Chipman, Director of Planned Giving/Major Gifts for Variety – The Children's Charity of BC and national chair of the CAGP*ACPD program LEAVE A LEGACY™ CANADA, offers these words of wisdom. "A financial plan will help you maximize your income and savings value, minimize your income tax, and build for the future."

Peter goes on to say, "Making a charitable gift in your Will actually can provide a substantial reduction of the income taxes payable on your final tax return, possibly resulting in more net money for your children, heirs, and other beneficiaries."

Many people do not have a fiscal plan, nor do they have a Will. You have a choice: you can run your life or you can let it run all over you. Taking control and being accountable are key to your peace of mind and total well-being. It seems to me that it feels better to tackle the things you might prefer to avoid. That includes taking responsibility for guiding your assets, both while you are alive and after you have departed. A BC Notary will be pleased to assist you with the details of your Will.

We all need a plan—straightforward or detailed, simple or complex—to suit our circumstances. Remember that you can revise your strategy as new information and opportunity arise. Ask a trained professional to help you make the best decisions.

It's never too late to start and probably never too early, either. What an advantage it is for children to learn to manage their own bank account and understand how money works!

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Nancy McKinstry, Vice President of Odlum Brown, was recently quoted as saying, "Build your business on INTEGRITY and your relationships on TRUST." Although Nancy is in the business of financial planning, her words hold true beyond that realm.

BC Notaries have created a Tradition of Trust and Notarial student Cherry Inglis has already proved her mettle. Her experience as an evacuee from the terrifying summer fires of 2003 is chronicled on page 52.

On the evening of September 30, Cherry offered a few more words for your consideration . . .

We are very busy; our daughter is

getting married on October 18. This weekend, when we went to Kelowna to my daughter's shower, I took ALL my Notary books, all my marked and "currently working on" assignments, on disc, and the Notary course CD with me!

It's wonderful to have a happy occasion to plan and look forward to. Things are going well here, although we need rain . . . very badly. We are still having the odd day—when the wind changes—that ground fires start up on the hill behind us. So we are not out of danger, but I'm getting over the paranoia. We just try to look for something positive each day and focus on that. Everything happens for a reason.

Bless you, Cherry, and all the other people whose lives have been so profoundly affected by the devastating fires. Your resilience and buoyant attitude are a model for us all—in the face of adversity . . . and if we begin to think *we* might be having a bad day!

Kelowna Notary Carmen Langstaff is one of the area Notaries offering to assist residents with fire-related insurance claims (see page 53). Carmen lost her own home to the fires, yet at our recent Conference, her sparkle brightened the room.

Life goes on. Sad things happen. The way we handle them is our measure. ▲