

Christian Estate Planning Seminars

Presented by
Lutheran Foundation Canada

Has your congregation had a Christian Estate Planning Seminar yet? Is it time to have another one? When I ask people to consider attending this seminar, their initial response is usually, “I already have a Will, so I don’t need to go.” **Let me be clear. Planning your estate goes well beyond simply having a Will!** What events should cause you to consider changing your will? Is your current Executor still the best choice? Is yours a Christian Will? Do you have Powers of Attorney or a Health Care Directive in place? Are they needed? What funeral plans could or should you make in advance, and with whom? If you were to die today, how easy would it be for someone to gather together all your relevant documents regarding home, bank accounts, investments, insurance, etc? This seminar will provide useful information to seniors, older children of seniors who often assist their parents, and families just starting out. There is no time like the present to start planning your estate.

Topics included:

- **Intro to Lutheran Foundation Canada**
- **Powers of Attorney**
- **Health Care Directive**
- **Estate and Probate tax reduction**
- **Wills and Asset “transfer” options**
- **Blended family issues**
- **What other planning should you do?**
- **Caring for your loved ones**
- **Responsibility to family and God**
- **Planned Giving**
- **Making a “Christian Will”**
- **Asset transfer issues based on marital status**
- **Creating order in the chaos of death**
- **Funeral costs**

Isn’t it ironic that for many people, the largest reported income in their entire life will be on the tax return submitted on their behalf after they die? Even with a modest house, some investments, and/or a pension, many estates are sufficiently large enough to reach the average Canadian, highest marginal tax rate on earned income of about 45%. This means that taxable assets within the estate could be taxed at 45%, depending on the type of asset being considered. Not all assets are taxed the same way, nor are the same assets treated identical based on your marital status.

As Christians we are encouraged to be good stewards of our estate; by having a Will, by considering the changing needs of our heirs, and by supporting the ministry of the church as we’ve done throughout our lifetime. The donation of estate assets only marginally impacts your overall estate value, due to realized tax reductions. For many, significantly reducing estate tax by incurring a marginal reduction in an estate’s overall value is additional incentive to consider this option. A greater knowledge of these issues will assist you in asking the right questions and getting sound recommendations from your professional financial advisor.

If you think that members of your congregation could benefit from a seminar on the above topics, please give your local Lutheran Foundation Canada Gift Coordinator a call, and he will gladly schedule one at your convenience. There is no charge for this seminar, so I encourage you to prayerfully consider this opportunity to get answers to these and other questions regarding estate planning. Plan to schedule and attend a Christian Estate Planning Seminar soon.



Lutheran Foundation Canada
REFLECTING GOD'S GRACE

In Christ,
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