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CIMA 2012 TAX UPDATE

PERSONAL AND BUSINESS TAX
CHANGES
FEBRUARY 25, 2012





Federal Budget 2011 – Overview

- Tabled,
- The budget of non-confidence and not passed
- Forms the basis of remaining post-election tax changes for 2011



Children's Arts Tax Credit

- Non-refundable credit up to \$75 (15% of \$500 of eligible expenses);
- Artistic, cultural, recreational or developmental activity for children <16;
- Child <18 qualifies for disability tax credit, extra credit of \$75;
- No double dip of Children's Fitness Tax Credit.



Children's Arts Tax Credit

- Eligible activities contribute to development of creative skills, or expertise in an artistic or cultural activity;
- Substantial focus on wilderness and natural environment;
- Develop and use intellectual skills;
- Interpersonal skills;
- Provides enrichment/tutoring in academic subjects.
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 Tomorrow.



Family Caregiver Amount ("FCA")

For providing care to an infirm dependant in 2012, FCA provides an additional \$2,000 credit for each of the following non-refundable tax credits:

- Spouse of common-law partner amount;
- Amount for an eligible dependent;



Family Caregiver Amount ("FCA") – Cont'd

For providing care to an infirm dependant in 2012, FCA provides an additional \$2,000 credit for each of the following non-refundable tax credits:

- Amount for children under age 18 at the end of the year;
- Amount for infirm dependents age 18 or older, and;
- Caregiver amount.



Family Caregiver Amount ("FCA") – Cont'd FCA conditions:

- Individual age 18 or older, dependent on you by reason of mental or physical infirmity;
- Child under 18, medical or physical infirmity expected to be indefinite needing more care assistance when compared to children of same age;

CRA may request physician certification re: Infirmity;

Can apply for each infirm dependent. Tomorrow.



Tax Credit for Children

- Credit currently \$319.65 (15% x \$2,131);
- Previous restriction: only one person per residence could claim credit;
- Restriction removed effective for 2011;
- Assists two families sharing a residence.



Medical Expenses

- For 2011, no maximum amount for medical expenses that may be claimed for dependent 18 years of age or older (previously limited to \$10,000);
- No change to Medical Expense Threshold: 3% of net income to a maximum of \$2,052.



Tuition Credit

- Professional association exam fees paid in 2011 greater than \$100 now eligible;
- Exam must be required to obtain professional designation or licensed or certified to practice a profession or trade in Canada;
- Includes exam materials;
- Excludes study program admission tests.



Tuition and Educational Credits

- For 2011, foreign university programs qualify if at least 3 weeks duration (previously 13 consecutive week minimum applicable);
- Also applicable for payments out of RESPs



Volunteer Firefighters' Tax Credit

- Non-refundable credit of \$450 (15% of \$3,000) for 2011;
- Minimum 200 hours of volunteer firefighting services,
 - Includes training and meeting time;
- Requires written certification of Fire Chief;
- Cannot be employee firefighter;
- □ Cannot also claim \$1,000 exemptior of the control of the contro

Personal Tax Measures

		2012 Margina	larginal Tax Rates			
2012 Taxable Income			Canadian Dividends			
	Other Income	Capital Gains	Eligible Dividends	Ineligible Dividend s		
First \$39,020	20.05%	10.03%	-6.23%	2.77%		
Over \$39,020 up to \$42,707	24.15%	12.08%	-0.32%	7.90%		
Over \$42,707 up to \$68,719	31.15%	15.58%	9.76%	16.65%		
Over \$68,719 up to \$78,043	32.98%	16.49%	10.55%	17.81%		
Over \$78,043 up to \$80,969	35.39%	17.70%	14.02%	20.82%		
Over \$80,969 up to \$85,414	39.41%	19.70%	16.49%	23.82%		
Over \$85,414 up to \$132,406	43.41%	21.70%	22.25%	28.82%		
Over \$132,406	46.41%	23.20%	26.57%	32.57%		
				Tamarr		



RRSP Prohibited Investments

- Previously Qualified Investments denied to includes shares where:
 - Plan and plan holder held less than 10% of issued shares, or
 - Investment less than \$25,000 AND arms length
- Prohibited Investment now includes ANY investment where plan and plan holder owns 10% or more of the shares;
- \square Penalty tax = 50% at time prohibited investment
- After March 22, 2011 100% tax on income or gains of prohibited investment



Health and Dental Plans (HDP)

- HDP cancellation amounts paid to employees and retirees taxable after 2011;
- CRA previously had favourable admin position that HDP cancellation payments non-taxable.



Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSPs)

- Where shortened life expectancy of RDSP beneficiary, no repayment of Canada Disability savings Grants (CDSGs) and Canada Disability Savings Bonds (CDSBs) required if:
 - Tax election filed;
 - Taxable withdrawals < \$10,000 per year;</p>
 - No further RDSP contributions
- For withdrawals after June 26, 2011
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 Tomorrow.



Donations of Flow Through Shares ("FTS")

- Prior to rule change, very tax effective solution to donate was FTS donation;
 - Purchase FTS, take the tax deduction;
 - Donate the FTS and if publicly traded, gain would be exempt;
 - Still receive FMV charitable donation receipt;

Tomorrow.

FTS purchased after March 22, 2011 – Gain now taxed up to 50% of cost.
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Tax on Split Income (aka "Kiddie Tax")

- Kiddie Tax introduced in 2000;
 - CCPC dividends received by minors taxed at top rate;
 - Objective: frustrate income splitting/dividend sprinkling with minors;
- Tax strategy to implement a corporate reorganization to result in capital gains reported by minor children → Kiddie Tax then N/A.
- New Kiddie Tax rules apply to capital gains realized by minors
- Applicable where minors acquire shares in series of transactions by non-arm's length person and with the series of shares would have been subject to Kiddie Tax



Tax on Split Income (aka "Kiddie Tax")

- If new Kiddie Tax rules apply:
 - Capital gain deemed to be non-eligible taxable dividend which is then subject to Kiddie Tax
 - Corporation deemed NOT to pay a dividend (so no Refundable Dividend Tax on Hand recovery)
- No capital gains exemptions available by minors



Employees Profit Sharing Plans (EPSPs)

Overview – tax deferral strategy over and above bonus.

- Possible EPSP tax filing position: since not a salary, not subject to the salary reasonability rules;
 - Computed with reference to profits rather than employee effort,
- Budget announced review of EPSPs; main issues:
 - EPSPs used to income split;
 - EPSPs used to defer taxes;
 - EPSPs avoiding CPP and EI;
- Consultation Process.



Capital Cost Allowance Manufacturing & Processing (M&P) Equipment

- M&P Equipment acquired before 2014 now will qualify for Class 29 CCA Treatment
 - □ 50% CCA Rate, Straight Line
- Previously M&P equipment had to be purchases prior to 2012.



Business Tax Measures

Corporate Income Tax Rates

■ No changes to corporate income tax rates

	2010	2011	2012
Federal General/ Invest/M&P	18.0	16.5	15.0
ON General/ Investment	14.0/12.0	12.0/11.50	11.5/11.0
Fed Small Business	11.0	11.0	11.0
ON Small Business	5.5/4.5	4.5	4.5
ON M&P	12.0/10.0	10.0	10.0



Taxation of Corporate Groups

- Reviewing possible new rules for taxation of corporate groups;
- Formal system of loss transfers or consolidated reporting;
- Stakeholder views will be obtained prior to intro of changes.

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Tax Cases of Interest

- Bozzer v. Her Majesty The Queen, 2011 DTC 5106 (FCA)
- Innovative Installations Inc. v. Her Majesty The Queen, 2010 FCA 285 (FCA)
- Triad Gestco Ltd. v. Her Majesty The Queen, 2011 DTC 1254
 1207192 Ontario Limited v. Her Majesty The Queen, 2011 TCC 383
- Spence et al v. Her Majesty The Queen 2011, DTC 5111 (FCA)
- □ McNamee v. McNamee, 2011 ONCA 533 (Ont C.A.)



Bozzer v. HMQ FCA

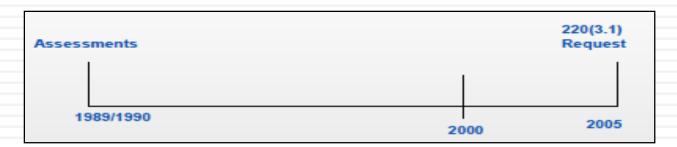
- Reviewed the interpretation of Fairness provisions of the ITA
- ITA reads as follows:

"The Minister may, on or before the day that is ten calendar years after the end of a taxation year of a taxpayer....waive or cancel all or any portion of any interest...payable...by the taxpayer...in respect of that taxation year..."



FACTS

- Taxpayer relief applied in 2005.
- □ Tax assessment for 1989/1990 taxation years.
- Minister denied relief; 10 year limitation period applied. ITA precluded interest relief 1989/1990 more than 10 years from 2005 application date.





- Federal Court denied the application for judicial review ->10 year limitation period expired
- Conclusion: the ITA's time limit is for the ten calendar years after the relevant taxation year (i.e.: year of assessment).



- Taxpayer appealed to FCA re: interpretation of phrase "interest payable in respect of a taxation year".
- Taxpayer contended submitted that the phrase means any interest accrued in that taxation year on a tax debt. i.e.: ITA permits Minister to cancel any interest that accrued in the 10 taxation years preceding the application – January 1, 1995 to December 31, 2004.



FCA

- Purpose Fairness provisions of ITA to allow CRA to administer system fairly and reasonably by helping taxpayers to resolve issues that arise through no fault of their own.
- Prior to 2004, 10 year Fairness limit non-existent.
- FCA agreed with the taxpayer's interpretation and allowed the appeal.



- TAX TIP #1: review fairness applications and voluntary disclosures where interest relief limited by 10 year rule as interpreted by CRA;
- Review fairness request;
- CRA response accept Bozzer decision and is revisiting its policy
- Taxpayers may need to make a post-Bozzer fairness request



FACTS

- Taxpayer obtained an RBC business loan;
- Taxpayer purchased a life insurance policy from RBC on the life of the shareholder;
- Life insurance death benefit to be utilized to discharge RBC debt – RBC named as beneficiary.



FACTS (cont'd)

- Shareholder subsequently dies.
- Insurer paid the death benefit of the policy directly to RBC.
- RBC was obliged to use the life insurance death benefit to discharge the debt.
- Taxpayer included in its Capital Dividend Account (CDA) the amount paid by RBC life insurance on shareholder`s death



- TCC Court held the insurance death benefit was in fact received by Taxpayer and increase to its CDA was appropriate.
- Minister appealed to FCA



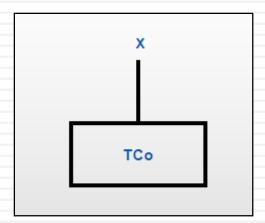
- FCA agreed with TCC proceeds of life insurance were received by Taxpayer and not RBC;
- Taxpayer still received the benefit of life insurance even though paid directly to the bank;
- Although proceeds of insurance never actually passed in Taxpayer's hands, Taxpayer permitted to include amount in calculating CDA



Triad Gestco Ltd v. HMQ 1207192 Ontario Limited v. HMQ

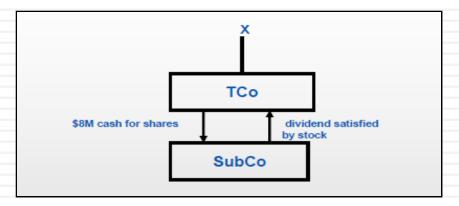
- Both GAAR reassessments;
- Both involved sophisticated tax planning to create a capital loss to offset a capital gain realized in the same taxation year;
- Fundamentally utilized the same structure to create the capital loss.





TCo sold capital property (Triad) resulting in \$8M capital gain.





- Tco causes to be incorporated Subco;
- Tco subscribes for 8M worth of common shares in Subco (ACB = 8M);
- Subco the next day declares a dividend satisfied by stock of 8M fixed value freeze shares (Low PUC/High Value);
- Tco sells common shares to (i) trust (Gestco principal beneficiary) (ii) trust (1207192) non affiliated.
 Business Advice for Tomorrow.



Result

- Common shares 8M ACB no value;
- □ Sale to Trust TCo realized a capital loss of 8M;
- Tco in determination of taxable income 8M gain 8M capital loss.



Application of General Anti Avoidance Rule (GAAR)

- Tax benefit;
- Avoidance transaction;
- Abusive tax avoidance.



Avoidance Transactions

- Declaration of stock dividend high/low shares;
- Creation of trust;
- Sale of common shares to trust;
- The entire series of steps.

Business Purpose

- Reverse estate freeze (Triad);
- Creditor proofing (1207192);
- TCC rejected business purpose concluded primary purpose of the entire series was to obtain a tax benefit. Business Advice for Tomorrow.



Was it Abusive Tax Avoidance?

- Court held –object spirit and purpose of ITA was to allow only the recognition of "true" capital losses sustained outside the economic unit;
- GAAR applied to deny the capital loss.



Spence v. HMQ

FACTS

- Taxpayer was a school teacher at a Montessori School;
- Taxpayer was arm`s length to Montessori School and its shareholders;
- Taxpayer's children attended the Montessori School;
- Montessori School granted a 50% discount on the tuition fees paid by Taxpayer and all other employees,
- Montessori School calc taxable benefit = cost of education service less amount paid by employees



Spence v. HMQ

- Minister reassessed Taxpayer.
- Employment benefit = FMV of Tuition less Amount paid by Taxpayer;
- TCC agreed with Taxpayer: benefit is determined to be measured against actual costs of the good or service incurred by the employee.



Spence v. HMQ

- Minister appealed to FCA
- The issue is not the cost for the employer of granting the benefit to the employee; ITA captures the value of the benefit received by the employee;
- FCA ruled that value of benefit = amount of the tuition fees
 Taxpayer had to otherwise pay



FACTS

- Family Law decision
- Father completes classic estate freeze of Opco;
- Parent of the estate freeze subscribes for common shares and gifts common shares to son;
- Father at all times maintains control of the Opco through voting special shares.

 Business Advice for

Tomorrow.



- Deed of Gift contained Family Law Act exclusion condition that shares and growth remain separate property of son;
- Son and spouse divorce
- Spouse claimed value of common shares should be included in net family property.



ISSUE

Was the transfer of shares a gift?

FAMILY COURT

- Court held no gift, father never intended to gift control of Opco to son as he maintained special voting shares;
- Purpose of Deed of Gift: was to disenfranchise the son's spouse;
- Value of common shares not excluded from net family property calculation.



Court confirmed basic law re. requirement for a gift:

- An intention to make a gift on the part of the donor without consideration or expectation of remuneration;
- An acceptance of the gift by the donee; and
- A sufficient act of delivery or transfer of the property to complete the transaction.

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STRUCTURING REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS

FEBRUARY 25, 2012





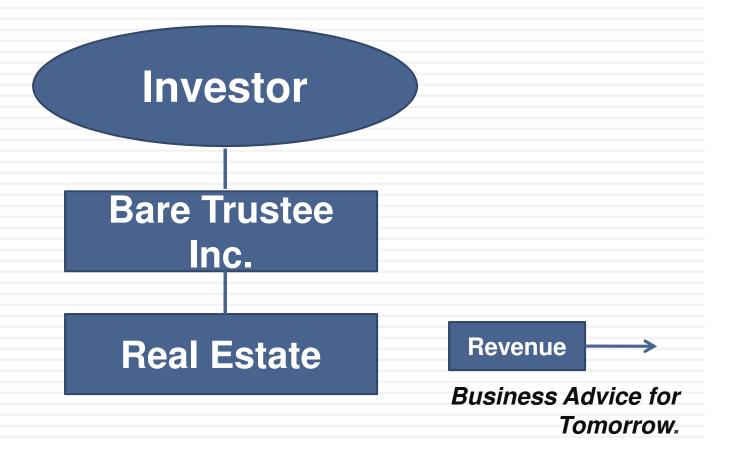
Sole Proprietorship

Investor

Real Estate

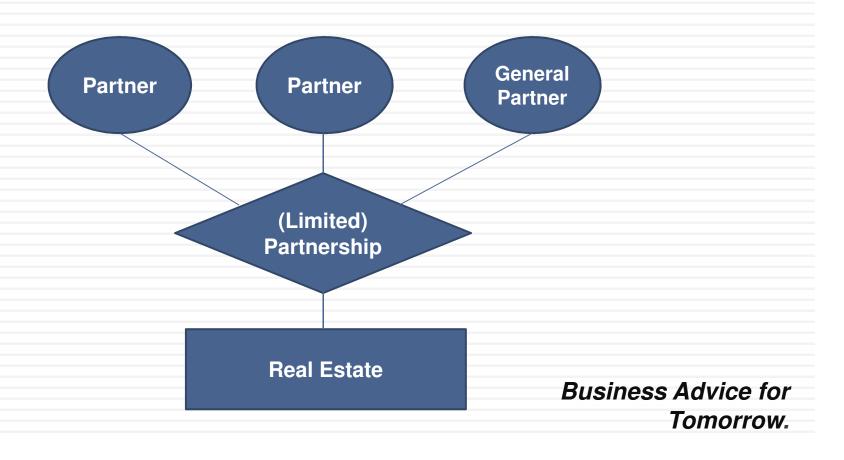


Bare Trustee



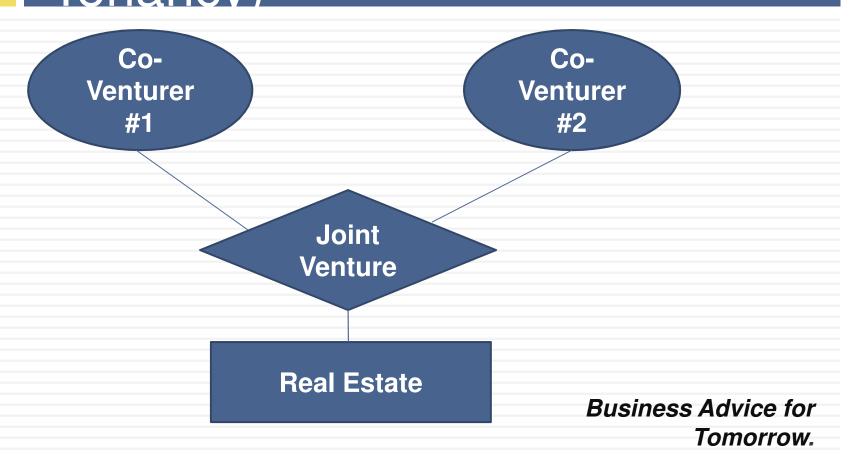


Partnership/Limited Partnership



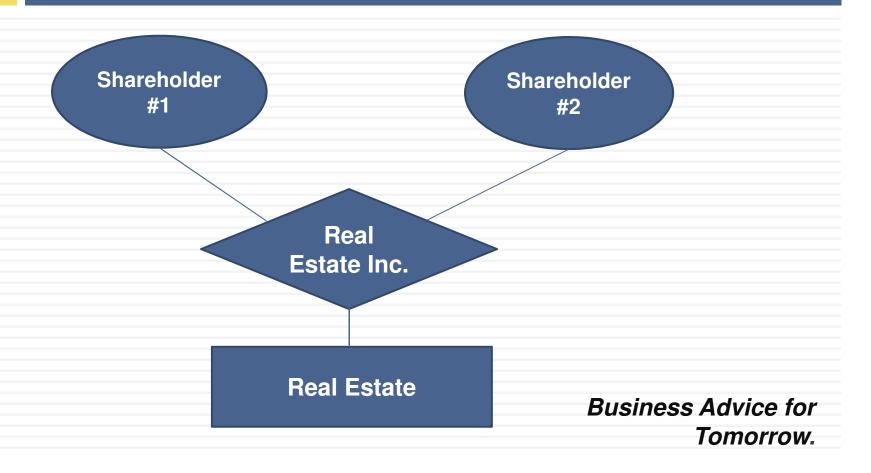


Joint Venture (a.k.a. Co-Tenancy)



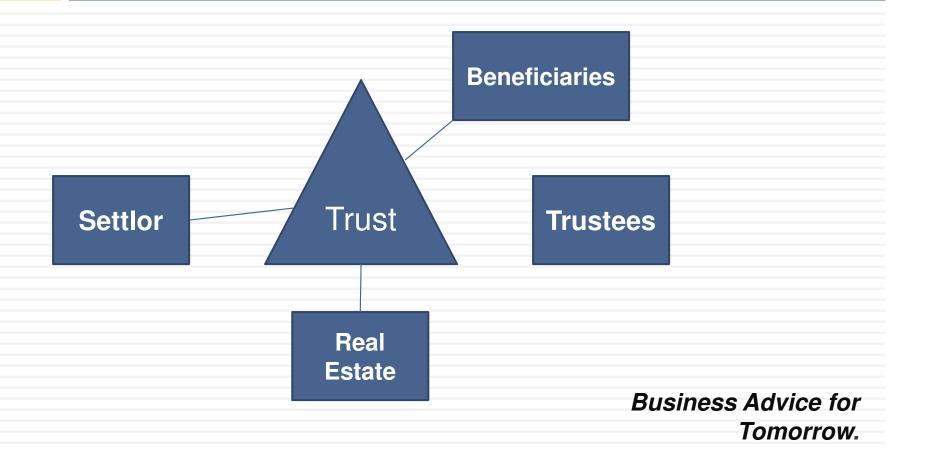


Corporation





Trust





Any Questions?





Thank You!

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