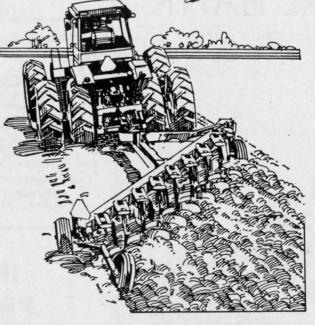
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Supplement to:

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Your Community Newspaper
Wednesday, February 14, 1990

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## You gotta give'em your SIN — the law says

yourself, but the tax collector wants every last nickel that's coming out of your hide.

One more proof is the new requirement -- by law -- to provide your social insurance number (SIN) to anyone who prepares an information slip on your behalf. They in turn are required by law to get the number. If you refuse, you are liable to a fine of \$100.

Revenue Canada says, "Pro-

You've probably noticed for viding your SIN will improve the fairness of the taxation system by ensuring that everyone pays their fair share. Your cooperation helps (us) provide better and more timely service and process forms more quick-

"Did your SIN appear on all the information slips you received this year? If not, now is the time to give it to the person who prepares them."

So now you know!

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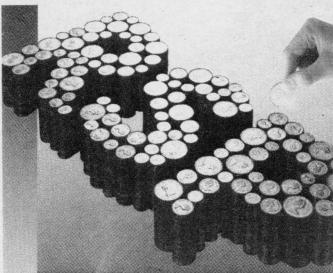
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# Saving baby bonus can lead to tax gains

By GLENN AGRO, CA

It may seem like no big deal. But saving the monthly baby bonus cheque can add up to a nest egg of \$27,000 by the time your child is 18.

Just as important, it can also save you a tidy sum in income tax along the way - in spite of tax reform.

Although family allowance (baby bonus) payments have always been taxable, tax reform has tightened the screws a bit. Payments must now be included in the income of whichever parent earns the higher salary. No exceptions.

That means tax on the baby bonus (now \$32.28 a month) could easily swallow about a third - almost \$130 a year. On top of that, any interest the allowance itself earns is taxable too — to the tune of \$10 to \$12 a year. And growing. But—and this is a significant

but — that only happens if the baby bonus is put into the savings account of one or other of the parents. Put it directly into a savings account for the child, and the whole scene changes.

Presumably your child has no other income. Or a least not enough to attract tax. Therefore, tax savings all around.

So the child's account just keeps growing, and the interest keeps compounding safely beyond the clutches of the tax receives the family allowance

Keep it in child's name

Naturally, as the child's account increases (say to \$1,000 or more), then that money could be transferred to a higher interest investment like a Canada Savings Bond or a certificate of deposit. The same tax savings would still apply as long as the investment is made specifically in the name of the child.

The only time the higher-income parent rule doesn't apply is in the case of a marriage break-up where the parents are permanently separated. In this case the parent who Mallette.

payments must show them as income whether his or her income is higher or not.

Another tax reform complication arises when it comes to claiming the credits for dependent children if the parents are separated; for example, where one parent is claiming the dependent children's tax credits while the other is being paid the family allowance.

In this instance, the parent claiming the tax credits (but not showing the baby bonus as income) must attach a letter to his or her personal tax return explaining why.

Glenn Agro is with BDO Ward

# Now you pay 15% on unpaid taxes

charge on outstanding income tax, penalties, insufficient installment payments and unpaid employee tax deductions has risen to 15 per cent, from 13 per cent.

That rate will also be paid by Revenue Canada on tax refunds still in the works. But there's no change in the 13 per cent rate to establish the taxable benefit on interest-free get you to pay faster.

Revenue Canada's interest and low-rate loans to employees.

The new rates were all scheduled to be reviewed again on Dec. 31. The rates are established by taking the average 90-day treasury bill rate during the first month of the previous quarter, rounding it up to the nearest percentage point and then adding two more points — all obviously to

## Proceed at your own risk with spousal RRSP rollovers

private pension income in your savings plan or can't you? The

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Can you place \$6,000 a year of spousal registered retirement answer is still a definite maybe.

Ottawa has announced the intention to permit spousal rollovers of private pension income (not CPP, QPP or OAS receipts) and income from deferred profit-sharing plans in the years 1989 to 1994 in-

Clearly, they would provide a useful income-splitting facility, especially since 1989 is the last year you can contribute pension income to your own RRSP.

The trouble is the necessary legislation is not yet in place. In fact, at this writing, it hadn't yet been introduced, and time's a-passing. There's no guarantee the necessary bill ever will be introduced for Parliament's OK and until the law is right there in the statutes and proclaimed in force, you could be disappointed.

Opinion varies as to what's going to happen. Will there be legislation in time to permit the rollovers before the end-of-February RRSP contribution deadline, or ever?

One school says the feds would lose all credibility if they actually went back on their word. Another says otherwise in these tax-hungry times for

Chances are things will all come out right in the end. But caution does seem to point to delaying your move until you know the law is in place.





A new effigy of Queen Elizabeth II is to appear on all Canadian coins starting this year, replacing the current version which has been used since 1963. The made-in-Canada design is by Hungarian-born Dora de Pedery-

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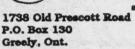
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balance sheet, every in-dividual, or at least every family, should have a net worth statement - a list of all assets and liabilities to show how much the household is worth.

There are several good practical reasons for knowing where you stand. First, you can make better use of your income and maintain better control of expenditures as you have a clear idea of what you own and what you owe.

Secondly, knowing what's left over after deducting current liabilities provides a strong incentive to save and as you see your net worth increase, you'll be encouraged

Net worth calculation helps

worth is also an essential component of all financial planning. How else can you judge what to set aside for buying a home, to pay for children's education, to establish your own business, to plan investments and to look ahead to retirement years?

A net worth statement is also needed for estate planning. Everyone needs a will and to know what's going to be left before deciding how the estate is to be broken up.

Futhermore, if you borrow cash or arrange a mortgage, you'll have to give the lender an accurate and up-to-date account of existing assets and

Knowledge of your net have will govern how much you can borrow.

Then in the future, you should plan to update your net worth statement annually. In the process, it's not absolutely essential to obtain reappraisals of valuable personal property each year. But it probably makes sense to have jewelry, art and antiques looked at by an expert every three years.

Your bank or trust company will probably have a folder to give you pointers on how to calculate net worth. Your local credit union also has an excellent little free guide, including a sample form, in the "Financial Fitness" series.

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If in fact there is no will when you die, the surrogate court in your province will appoint an administrator for your estate. There is no guarantee it will be someone of whom you would have approved. The distribution of your estate is then entirely at the discretion of the administrator - according to the law but not necessarily according to your wishes because you left no legal record of what you wanted.

So it's certainly a good idea to act right away. You can buy forms from stationery stores and anyone other than beneficiaries can witness your signature. But unless the will is extremely simple - even then, really - it's best to ask your lawyer for help.

Before you meet the lawyer, assemble details of your assets, plus locations and numbers of all insurance policies in force as well as any outstanding support arrangements or any other financial commitments which will outlive you.

You should also give some thought to whom you wish to name as your executor - the person who makes sure your intentions are carried out after death. Finally, plan to review your will every three years from now on to make sure it reflects any change in circumstances which may have

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# RRSP's give head start on retirement

and Old Age Security provide you with only the most basic income in retirement, you should take steps today to plan your financial future. To maintain a respectable standard of living during retirement, Registered in your spouse's name. However, the Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP) or other types of retirement and investment income are now essential.

What is a RRSP?

RRSPs were introduced by the Canadian government to help Canadians supplement their retirement removed from your spouse's plan for income. By putting money into an RRSP, you accumulate funds for taxable income will be less than yours retirement, lower your taxable income and tax shelter the earnings of your 'becomes a distinct advantage when plan.

RRSP contributions in a calendar income. year must be claimed against income earned in that year. Contributions made within 60 days after the year end can, however, be claimed against income in the previous or current

Can you have more than one RRSP?

Yes. You can buy a different RRSP from different sources every year; but you must keep in mind your ability to manage these plans effectively and or dependant, rather than an estate.

Because the Canada Pension Plan the maximum amount you are allowed to contribute

> Many individuals take advantage of the spousal contribution option. Under this strategy, you make your contributions to an RRSP registered combined total of your contributions to your own RRSP and to your spouse's must not exceed your own permissible maximum. To maintain the tax deduction advantage, however, the contribution must not be at least three years. If your spouse's at retirement then this approach planning your household's retirement

#### Are RRSPs protected from creditors?

In the event of bankruptcy, most RRSPs are collapsed and the funds distributed among creditors. The exception to this rule is an RRSP purchased from a life insurance company. Life insurance RRSPs offer this protection, provided the beneficiaries named in the policy are your spouse



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When must I use the RRSP income?

By the end of the year in which you reach age 71 you must either cash in your RRSP or convert it into a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) or an annuity. These retirement income vehicles allow you to reduce the taxes of "cashing-in" your RRSP. (Of course, because your RRSP was completely tax sheltered, the income from the RRIF or annuity

A RRIF can provide you with estate. income until age 90. It pays you an funds you accumulated in your better off you'll be in retirement. By

RRSPs. A life annuity guarantees you the time you reach your late 30s you and may be set up to include a guaranteed payment period such as 15 or 20 years. Under the guaranteed annuity, if you die before the end of the guarantee period, annuity payments continue to your spouse, beneficiary or estate until the contract is fulfilled. An annuity to age 90, as the name suggests, makes payments until you turn 90. If you die before then, the or would like additional information, payments go to your beneficiary or

The earlier you start your RRSP, income, based on an allocation of the the more you'll put into it and the your local life underwriters asso-

a monthly income as long as you live should try to make the maximum annual contribution.

Where can you purchase RRSPs?

A broad range of institutions offer RRSPs, including life insurance companies, trust companies, banks, credit unions and various investment com-

If you have questions about RRSPs contact the Life Underwriters Association of Canada, 41 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario, M3B 2T3, or

## Financial planning important

Who is the best person to help you manage your money and other assets? That's the question you must answer when selecting a financial planner from the wide range of professions and institutions which offer financial planning services. To answer the question, however, you need to understand what financial planning

What is a financial plan?

A financial plan is a strategy which guides you in covering the variety of financial situations you face both in the short- and long-term. To do this your financial plan should include the following elements:

1. Cash – This is money set aside in savings accounts or other investments which you can cash-in quickly if needed.

2. Protection – This includes life, health and disability insurance which protects you and your family from unforeseen circumstances

3. Guaranteed Investments - These include RRSPs, GICs, treasury bills and Canada Savings Bonds which provide steady, reliable income.
4. Equity Investments – These

include segregated funds, mutual funds and stocks which can provide income greater than current interest

Where should you seek financial advice?

Many professions offer financial planning services, including accountants, life insurance agents, lawyers and investment fund agents. When selecting the person to serve you, choose one who has solid, professional training.

Life insurance agents, for example, receive post-licensing education through the Life Underwriters Association Training Course and the university-level Chartered Life Underwriter program. The Life Underwriters Association of Canada (LUAC) has

sultants program which offers com- they are compensated. prehensive financial planning instruc-

(CFP) designation is awarded by the Canadian Association of Financial Planning (CAFP). Accountants, lawyers and trust company officers have their own professional courses and designations.

you should consult a trusted counseler who has gained your confidence through past dealings. If this person doesn't already provide comprehensive financial planning services, he or she can refer you to other professionals.

What should you know about financial planners?

Financial planners are professionals who are paid for their services. You should know how your planner is

charges consultation fees. Fees usually range from \$75 to \$100 per hour and are based on analyzing and making recommendations on your current financial situation. A detailed financial plan can cost \$500 to \$5,000. The fee may include ongoing consultation as well as the initial creation of your financial plan.

A second group of planners are paid solely through commissions earned on the sale of financial products. Finally, a third group are paid through a combination of commissions and consulting fees.

Before you engage a consultant, make sure the individual states how he or she is compensated. The two major professional associations -LUAC and CAFP-whose members are involved in financial planning, state clearly in their codes of ethics

launched a Chartered Financial Con- that members must state upfront how

LUAC has taken that code one step tion. Graduates of this program further. The association has recom-receive the designation CH.F.C. mended to provincial regulators that mended to provincial regulators that The Chartered Financial Planner financial planners, whatever their background, be required to provide you with a letter of engagement providing the following details:

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4. The planner's direct or indirect ownership or interest in any recommended products.

5. Whether the planner receives compensation other than from you with respect to the financial services provided.

Once the domain of the wealthy, financial planning is becoming more important and accessible to all Canadians. However, before sitting down to work on your personal financial plan, One group of financial planners make sure you have the help of a financial adviser you can trust.

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