



June 13, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Attention: General/financial/lifestyle reporters

Leaving a legacy to charity good for taxes and soul **Legacies reduce wait lists for Surrey Centre for Child Development**

(Vancouver, BC) -- Death may be inevitable but taxes don't have to be if, in your will, you leave a legacy to a charitable organization, says the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP).

Leaving a legacy can reduce the tax burden on your beneficiaries so you can leave this world peaceful in the knowledge you've done something good for the soul that helps others. Legacies, also known as bequests, are a distribution from one's estate to a charitable organization through a last will and testament.

It's a rare win-win situation in what would categorically be a no-win situation. It's a trend that's slowly on the rise but the CAGP says too many opportunities are lost for charitable organizations – and those they serve – to benefit.

According to the CAGP, more than 62 per cent of Canadians contribute to charitable organizations throughout their lifetimes, but only seven per cent continue this support through a legacy in their will or estate plan.

In the years ahead, more than \$1,000,000,000 (one trillion dollars!) will be transferred by Canadians from one generation to the next by means of individual estates – nearly enough to buy off the entire assets of the Deutsch Bank Group, one of the world's largest banks. Imagine the difference even a small handful of that money would make for charitable organizations serving their communities in BC and across Canada?

Sadly, despite the significant tax savings and good feeling donors stand to achieve from leaving legacies, not enough are doing it. But this may improve with increased awareness of the advantages. Kim Karras, a lawyer with Brawn, Karras & Sanderson in Surrey, says it's important for estate planning professionals to recognize they play a vital role in the area of charitable giving.

"I believe we have a duty to assist our clients in not only reaching their estate planning objectives, but also in recognizing and achieving philanthropic objectives. There are a number of ways that our clients may do so and, at the same time, achieve tax savings at death when significant taxes may be triggered. There are substantial tax incentives in place to encourage philanthropic giving," said Karras.

"For example, in the 2006 Federal Budget, the government announced that the capital gains inclusion rate will be reduced to zero (from 25 per cent) for gains on publicly-listed securities donated to charitable organizations and public foundations on or after May 2, 2006. As advisors, we are able to make our clients aware of the possibilities and the benefits derived from planned giving. Our job is to encourage the development of gift planning by creating awareness," added Karras.

Fortunately, individuals who have heeded such advice have benefited organizations such as the Surrey-based Centre for Child Development, a regional children's neurological facility that

provides services to 1,700 children with special needs and their families in Delta, Surrey, White Rock and Langley.

“Legacy support is needed now more than ever before. Rapid community growth has quadrupled our wait lists for service to one-to-two-years – the longest in our 52-year history. All legacy donations are invaluable to reducing those wait lists,” said Judy Krawchuk of the Centre for Child Development”

This week, financial planning and legacy experts will be talking about the benefits of leaving legacies at an information workshop hosted by the Leave A Legacy program of Greater Vancouver. For more information on the Thursday, June 15 workshop and the topic itself, visit www.leavealegacy.ca

The Canadian Association of Gift Planners/Association canadienne des professionnels en dons planifiés supports philanthropy by fostering the development and growth of gift planning throughout Canada. Formed 11 years ago with 11 founding members, CAGP_ACPDP™ has grown to over 1200 members representing charities and professional advisors across Canada. Leave A Legacy is the public awareness program of CAGP.

-30-

Media Contact:

Michele Penz, Calico Communications for the Canadian Association of Gift Planners
778.888.2249