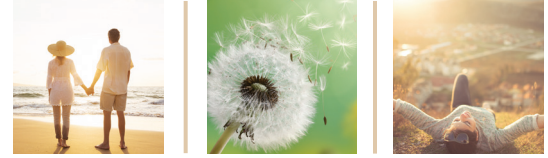




# Wealth Insights

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## To My Clients:

*While it may be difficult to look beyond today, this period of market volatility and economic uncertainty will eventually pass. Market pullbacks are discomfoting, yet they remain a normal part of investing. While the media has been busy magnifying the uncertainties and suggesting that this time is different, I remain confident that better times will eventually prevail.*

*As your advisor, I have managed through periods such as these. Part of my role is to help investors navigate these challenging times. If I can help in any way, please call. I hope you will find time to enjoy the long days ahead.*

## Maintaining Conviction

These days, investors have needed a significant amount of conviction. After last year’s largely uninterrupted rise in equity markets, 2022 has seen a rapid reversal in direction and sentiment.

While it was anticipated that inflation would ease as we moved into a post-pandemic world, it largely hasn’t. With new headwinds from the war and the spring Covid shutdowns in China, central banks have taken more aggressive action to combat inflation. With slowing economic growth, there are worries that this will lead to a “hard landing” resulting in recession. This has created significant jitters in the markets.

It may feel as though optimism is in short supply, but there are reasons to keep perspective. We have come from a period in which record government stimulus benefitted the markets and economies, so a period of adjustment was expected. We are now seeing earnings facing headwinds as consumption patterns begin to balance toward services and inflation impacts company costs. Yet, while current high inflation is more than just transitory, consider that it’s likely not to be permanent.

As the media tries to evoke worry that a recession is imminent, consider that economies, like markets, are cyclical in nature. Recessions also vary in intensity and duration. Our most recent recession during the depths of the pandemic lasted only three months; the one prior in 2008 lasted only seven.<sup>1</sup> Recessions are often characterized by excesses of inventory, capacity or credit, which aren’t largely apparent at the moment. Labour markets and household balance sheets are also at healthy levels to support consumer resilience.

Here at home, we are comparatively insulated from many challenges that face other nations. From a broad perspective, we are fortunate to have political and economic stability and security. With energy once again in the spotlight as a matter of national security, our domestic energy production, as well as our vast resources, serves us well. Our economy is expected to fare better than other advanced economies, in part due to our resources sector. Consider that in Q1 2022, Canada’s GDP grew at a rate of over three percent,<sup>2</sup> whereas U.S. GDP contracted.

With continuing inflation, the Canadian equity market has performed better than its peers due to its composition (see page 2), especially as commodity prices have been pushed higher. Regardless, history has shown that over the long term, equity market returns have generally outperformed inflation and continued their upward climb.

This may be why Warren Buffett, arguably one of the world’s greatest investors, added to his portfolio amidst the market pullback — in fact, the most assets since 2008. He recognizes that the long-term trend of equity markets has been up. Buffett’s investing style involves purchasing quality investments at low prices and holding them for the long term. After all, one of the main drivers of equity markets is that economies have continued to progress through time, and investors can benefit from the investment, innovation and growth of participating companies.

Periods of volatility can be expected as we try to overcome the current challenges, but eventually the pendulum will swing back again. Market pullbacks are uncomfortable, yet they remain a normal part of investing. This is a time in which thoughtful portfolio oversight, scrutiny and selectivity can continue to benefit investors. Most important, investors should remember that successful investing often involves having trust in your wealth plan, continuing to stay invested and maintaining conviction that better days lie ahead.

1. C.D. Howe; 2. www.reuters.com/markets/us/canadas-first-quarter-growth-disappoints-31-april-gdp-seen-up-02-2022-05-31/

## Wealth Insights

### ■ Estate Planning

# Trusts: Not Just for the Ultra Wealthy

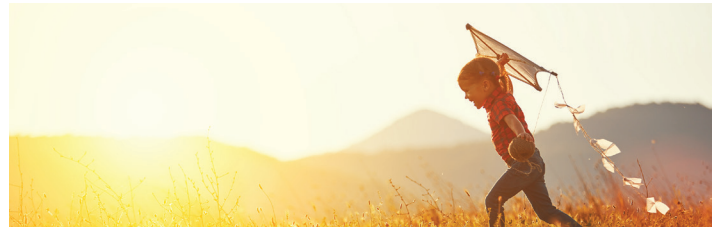
Trusts have often been perceived as a tool only available for the ultra wealthy. Yet, trusts may bring benefits to those of more modest wealth and may be worth the associated costs.

While trusts can be created during an individual's lifetime (known as "inter-vivos trusts"), here we focus on estate planning and the insertion of testamentary trusts in the Last Will. After death, the Will can have a testamentary directive instructing the executor to transfer certain assets (or a share of the residue of the estate) into a testamentary trust, to be held and administered by a trustee for the benefit of the estate beneficiary.

Here are three common situations in which a testamentary trust may act as a valuable estate planning tool:

**1. Blended families.** A spousal trust could be set up in the Will, where assets and funds are held in trust and made available to the surviving spouse for their lifetime while ensuring children from a previous marriage ultimately inherit the remaining wealth upon the death of the spouse. In the context of a second marriage, without a testamentary spousal trust, upon death the assets that would pass directly to the surviving spouse would ultimately be distributed to the beneficiaries as determined by the surviving spouse's Will. By inserting a spousal trust in the Will, upon the death of the surviving spouse, the remaining assets would be distributed according to the terms specified in your Will.

**2. Beneficiaries who need support.** A testamentary trust may be a good tool to help ensure ongoing support to dependent beneficiaries or those who may not be financially responsible. Since a minor generally cannot receive an inheritance prior to reaching the age of majority, through a trust, a trustee can manage and administer the inheritance of the minor child until they reach the



age of majority (or later, depending on the terms of the trust). A trust may be beneficial in situations in which dependents are disabled or incapacitated. A trustee would have discretion in the administration of the funds and control the timing and amount to be distributed to the beneficiary. As well, in certain provinces, it may be possible to set up a trust for those with a disability without compromising government disability benefits.

**3. To protect inherited assets from a potential marriage breakdown of a beneficiary.** A testamentary trust may be one way to pass down important family assets, such as a cottage or family business, while protecting children from having their share subject to a division in the event of matrimonial claims or claims from other potential creditors. With property prices skyrocketing for many cottages and cabins, or given the value of a family business, there may be concerns about passing along family assets to the next generation in the event of a potential marital breakdown of a beneficiary.

In the above circumstances, and others, having the protection of a trust can provide estate planning benefits. Establishing a trust, and the associated tax implications, may be complex and the benefits depend on individual circumstances. As such, we recommend seeking the advice of legal and tax specialists as you plan ahead.

### ■ Portfolio Management

## Perspectives on Maintaining a Diversified Allocation

Over recent times, you may have heard references to the "rotation from growth to value." Up until 2022, many growth stocks continued their upward climb. However, due to higher inflation, slower economic growth and more aggressive tightening monetary policies, there has generally been a shifting narrative from the growth sector to the value sector.

A **growth stock** generally refers to a share in a company that is expected to grow at a rate faster than the market average. Growth stocks often do not pay dividends because earnings are usually invested back in the company to generate further growth. Many technology companies are considered to be growth stocks.

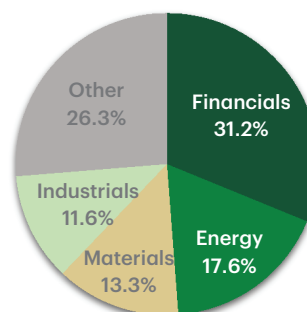
A **value stock** refers to a share in a company that is priced cheaply compared to its fundamental value after accounting for earnings, cash flow and other metrics. Value stocks often issue high dividends. They tend to have more exposure to cyclical areas of the market, for instance financials, industrials, energy and materials sectors.

One observation is that Canadian and U.S. equity markets are structured quite differently (chart). The S&P/TSX Composite Index may be more heavily weighted to the value sector, whereas the S&P 500 Index is more highly weighted towards growth.

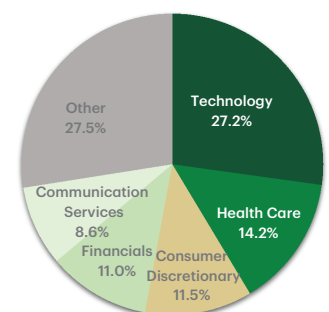
What does this tell us about the future? Over shorter time periods, different sectors will perform differently. This is one reason why

diversification is important. No sector — or even asset class or geographical market — will perform at the top each year. Diversification can provide the opportunity to participate in the upside of the best performers each year. While it does not necessarily shield portfolios from broad-based declines which happen from time to time, diversification can help to protect portfolios from the natural downturns that may affect sectors, asset classes and geographies at different times.

Canada: S&P/TSX Composite Index Sector Breakdown



U.S.: S&P 500 Index Sector Breakdown



Sector breakdown at April 29, 2022. Source: S&P Global Factsheets.

## ■ Federal Budget 2022

# The Proposed FHSA – Support for New Home Buyers and More?

This year's federal budget introduced a new tool intended to help support new home buyers. Proposed to begin in 2023, the First Home Savings Account (FHSA) is a registered plan that combines the tax benefits of the RRSP and TFSA; tax-free in and tax-free out.

With the average home price now around \$817,000,<sup>1</sup> home ownership continues to rise further out of reach for many. Yet, it remains a social norm: according to a recent study, a high number of young Canadians — 88 percent — want to become homeowners.

The FHSA will allow Canadian residents over age 18 to contribute up to \$8,000 per year, to a maximum contribution of \$40,000, towards their first home.<sup>2</sup> Contributions will be tax deductible, similar to the RRSP, and qualified withdrawals will be tax free, similar to the TFSA. The FHSA can remain open for 15 years.

According to the government, the \$40,000 limit was chosen as it represented around five percent of the average home price when the proposal was created, or \$736,000.<sup>3</sup> While the limit has been criticized as being too low given prevailing prices, consider that maximizing contributions over the plan's lifetime has the potential to grow to over \$75,000 based on a five percent annual return (chart). A couple who are both first-time home buyers could potentially combine their FHSAs.

### Saving for a New Home: FHSA or RRSP/HBP?

One constraint is that the proposed rules do not permit use of the existing Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) alongside the FHSA. The HBP allows first-time buyers to withdraw up to \$35,000 from the RRSP, subject to repayment in 15 years and other conditions. This has prompted some to ask: will the FHSA or RRSP/HBP be a better savings vehicle?

All things equal, the FHSA's structure appears to be more beneficial given the tax-free benefit for a qualified withdrawal when funds are used to purchase a first home. However, whether the FHSA or RRSP offers greater benefits is likely to depend on various factors, including

### Potential Growth of FHSA in 15 Years — Based on 5% Compounded Annual Growth (Not Including Tax Benefit from Contribution)

Year	Contribution	Start of Year	Growth @ 5%	End of Year
1	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$400	\$8,400
2	\$8,000	\$16,400	\$820	\$17,220
3	\$8,000	\$25,220	\$1,261	\$26,481
4	\$8,000	\$34,481	\$1,724	\$36,205
5	\$8,000	\$44,205	\$2,210	\$46,415
...15	—	\$72,005	\$3,600	\$75,606

available income or cash flow, timing of a home purchase, marginal tax rate, current/potential tax bracket, other income-tested benefits (such as child benefit payments), etc.

Under the proposed rules, there will be an option to move funds from one's RRSP to the FHSA, subject to FHSA annual and lifetime contribution limits; however, these transfers would not restore an individual's RRSP contribution room. If not used for a first-home purchase, the FHSA may be transferred to the RRSP after 15 years, without affecting RRSP contribution room.

Regardless, there may be ways to help maximize the value of the FHSA:

- **Start early!** As the FHSA can stay open for 15 years, take advantage of compounding over time. If the FHSA isn't used, funds can be transferred to the RRSP (or taxes paid on withdrawals).
- **Try to maximize the annual limit.** The more you save from the onset, the greater potential benefit you may achieve from compounded growth. Annual contributions are limited to \$8,000 and unused contribution room does not carry forward.

### Not Just for Young Canadians? Stay Tuned...

The recent budget proposals suggest that there is no age limit to invest in the FHSA. If this stands, there may be opportunities available for older Canadians.<sup>4</sup> As details are finalized and legislation is passed, this will become clearer. More to come...

1. [www.cbc.ca/news/business/crea-housing-february-16385274](http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/crea-housing-february-16385274); 2. [financialpost.com/executive/executive-summary/posthaste-most-canadians-doubt-new-tax-free-fhsa-will-help-them-buy-a-home](http://financialpost.com/executive/executive-summary/posthaste-most-canadians-doubt-new-tax-free-fhsa-will-help-them-buy-a-home); 3. [liberal.ca/housing/afford-a-downpayment-faster/](http://liberal.ca/housing/afford-a-downpayment-faster/); 4. "Three ways to make the most of the new tax-free savings account for home buyers," Erica Alini, The Globe and Mail, April 30, 2022, B15.

## ■ Upcoming Changes for High-Net-Worth Spenders

# Expected To Arrive by Fall: A Luxury Tax on Cars, Boats and Aircraft

As of September 2022, shoppers will likely notice an increase in the cost of certain luxury vehicles. A luxury tax is set to apply to cars and aircraft with a retail value of more than \$100,000 and boats with a retail value of more than \$250,000.

The tax will be based on the retail sales value\* of the good, and is proposed to be calculated as the lesser of:

- 20 percent of the retail sales price that exceeds the thresholds listed above: \$100,000 for cars/aircraft and \$250,000 for boats; or
- 10 percent of the full value of the luxury car, boat or aircraft.

For instance, if you were to purchase a car valued at \$140,000:

- 20 percent of the retail price above \$100,000, or \$40,000 = \$8,000
  - 10 percent of the full value of \$140,000 = \$14,000
- Luxury Tax = Lesser of (a) and (b) = \$8,000  
 Sub-Total Price (Before Provincial Sales Tax and GST) = \$148,000  
 GST = \$7,400\*\*

**Total Sales Price with Luxury Tax and GST = \$155,400**



The luxury tax will be payable by a registered vendor based on the sale of the luxury good delivered in Canada, similar to how vendors are responsible for collecting and paying the GST or provincial sales tax.

While final legislation has yet to be enacted at the time of writing, the federal government quietly released revised draft proposals in March.

For more information, please see the Government of Canada website: [www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/news/2022/03/government-releases-draft-legislative-proposals-to-implement-luxury-tax.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/news/2022/03/government-releases-draft-legislative-proposals-to-implement-luxury-tax.html)

\*The retail value notably includes the fair market value of the subject item, the total amount of all fee(s) and charge(s), and additional tax(es), duty(ies), levy(ies) or fee(s) (federal and provincial). \*\*GST calculation based on federal government background report.

## ■ Reflections from One of the World's Greatest

# During Challenging Times: What Would Warren Buffett Do?

Here are some thoughts from the Oracle of Omaha, who shared his wisdom and insight at his most recent shareholder meeting this past spring.

During challenging markets, what better time to draw on the wisdom of one of the world's greatest investors? Warren Buffett held his annual shareholder meeting in May, his first in-person meeting in three years. Now 91 years old, he gave no indication that he would be leaving the business anytime soon. His long-time business partner, Charlie Munger, who is 98, also joined him. Buffett jokingly remarked: "if you're the owner of a company and you've got two guys — 98 and 91 — running the company, you're entitled to actually see them in person."

Here are some of the Oracle of Omaha's more recent thoughts:

### On Opportunity Amid Uncertainty

Amid the significant stock market volatility to start the year, Buffett made a record \$41 billion in net stock purchases in the first quarter, reportedly the largest asset purchase since 2008.<sup>1</sup> It's a testament to Buffett's investing style, which focuses on purchasing quality companies at reasonable prices with the intention of holding them forever. In Buffett's words: "On occasion, it becomes easy to buy pieces of wonderful businesses at wonderful prices."

### On Finding the "Right" Time to Buy

Despite these purchases, Buffett recommended against worrying about finding the right time to buy a stock. He acknowledged that: "We've not been good at timing. We've been reasonably good at figuring out when we were getting enough for our money." Instead of trying to predict the markets, he suggests navigating them: Invest in the stock and "observe the market over time." If the value dips because of general market declines, and not company fundamentals, "consider buying more at these less expensive prices."

### On Maintaining Patience

Buffett used a farm analogy to remind investors that patience is one of the keys to generating future wealth. He suggested that speculation has become a way in which many think they can become rich, by simply "inserting yourself in the system." On a farm, he says, "they don't sit there every day and, 15 times a day, get quotes to make calls and puts...they go about making the farm worth more money over



time." Buffett reminded his audience of the importance of holding investments for the longer term in order to generate wealth, pointing to the fact that since 1941, the DJIA has increased from 130 points to over 30,000 today. "It's amazing how hard people make what is a simple (process)."

### On Inflation

Buffett acknowledged that rising inflation has been difficult for everyone: "Inflation swindles the bond investor, it swindles the person who keeps their cash under their mattress, it swindles everybody. If you really could have a totally stable unit of monetary use for the next hundred years, it would be better for business and investors in general."

While Buffett has suggested in the past that good businesses will be able to withstand periods of higher inflation, he offered a more philosophical perspective on the inflation we are experiencing today. It is worth reflection as we continue to look forward:

*"Whatever abilities you have can't be taken away from you. They can't actually be inflated away from you. The best investment by far is anything that develops yourself, and it's not taxed at all."*

Thank you to Warren Buffett for allowing us permission to share his timeless wisdom. Please note that the material is copyrighted and used with permission of the author.  
1. [www.bnnbloomberg.ca/buffett-lures-omaha-disciples-with-stock-buys-inflation-warning-1.1759762](http://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/buffett-lures-omaha-disciples-with-stock-buys-inflation-warning-1.1759762)

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