



**FIGHTING
BLINDNESS
CANADA**



YOUR GUIDE TO A GIFT OF **LIFE INSURANCE**

BENEFITS TO YOU

SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT

The transaction is simple. Your life insurance specialist can advise you on the type of policy that would best fit your needs, custom design your program, and carry through with the necessary paperwork.

SAVE TAXES TODAY

With some arrangements, receive charitable tax receipts for the premiums being paid or the cash value of the policy that you can use in your next tax return.

INEXPENSIVE

A way to make a larger gift than you might otherwise be able to, without depleting your current assets now or your estate later.

ELIMINATES PROBATE, LEGAL AND EXECUTOR FEES

Life insurance is not subject to probate costs or delays in settlement. The full proceeds are payable to Fighting Blindness Canada at maturity or on your death.

No more feeling helpless watching a child struggle through a life with blindness; no more watching the life of a parent or other elderly person slowly lose their independence; no more living with a loved one whose vision disappears along with the other ravages of diabetes. A gift from your assets of any size, when you no longer need them, will give you the power to fight blindness in the future.

GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE

A gift of *life insurance* is a simple and easy way to support Fighting Blindness Canada. A life insurance policy enables you to make a significant gift for the future for a relatively small financial outlay today. Many donors responding to the challenges facing Fighting Blindness Canada in the future, would like to make a significant legacy contribution; however, they may choose not to use current financial resources. A life insurance gift can be a creative way to make the significant contribution to the future that you may not have thought was possible. Using life insurance can leverage a modest gift today for a larger future gift. Either a new or existing policy can be used to make a gift and the donor is positioned to benefit from favourable tax incentives.

HOW TO

1. There are a few easy ways to make a gift of life insurance. You can take an existing policy that has finished serving its original purpose and simply have the ownership and beneficiary designation transferred to Fighting Blindness Canada. This designation cannot be changed. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for any accumulated value of the policy at the time of transfer. Any continued premium payments also qualify for charitable tax receipts. Fighting Blindness Canada strongly recommends that you discuss this matter with your insurance specialist before any transfer takes place.

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YOUR GUIDE TO **LIFE INSURANCE** CONTINUED

2. You can purchase a new life insurance policy in which Fighting Blindness Canada is named as the owner and beneficiary. You continue to pay the premiums and receive a charitable tax receipt for those payments every year. Again, this designation cannot be changed.

FOR EXAMPLE:

James Cavanaugh has a \$100,000 life insurance policy for which he still pays premiums of \$2,000 a year. The policy also has \$5,000 built up cash value in the policy. He irrevocably transfers it to Fighting Blindness Canada and here is what happens:

- Mr. Cavanaugh creates a future gift today in the amount of \$100,000 that will be realized by Fighting Blindness Canada when he dies.
- He receives an immediate tax credit of \$5,000 giving him approximately a \$2,250 to \$2,300 return for his current tax year (varies by province).
- He receives a tax credit every year that he continues to pay for the policy of \$2,000 for which he gets back approximately 45% (Note: amounts vary by Province).

OTHER USES OF LIFE INSURANCE

Life insurance can be a powerful and flexible tool to structure complex gifts to Fighting Blindness Canada that can have significant tax benefits for the donor. Some of these arrangements may include:

- Insurance that provides funds into your estate to offset amounts related to other charitable gifts.
- Part of an estate tax planning to mitigate tax liabilities in addition to the expected charitable tax receipts.
- Corporate-owned life insurance used as a charitable gift.

VISIONARY CIRCLE

These arrangements should be developed with a highly qualified financial planner and life insurance expert. When you leave Fighting Blindness Canada in your Will you are recognized through our **Visionary Circle**. When you step into that Circle you join other courageous, passionate Canadians, who also have a dream for a world without blindness. Fighting Blindness Canada would like to recognize your personal commitment to the **Fight for Sight ... the power to change lives in the future**. Your actions define you as a visionary, someone who wishes to create miraculous results in curing blindness Now and for generation to come. Your name (if you wish) will be listed within our **Visionary Circle**, and you will get regular updates on the successes and challenges in ongoing work of Fighting Blindness Canada.

PLEASE SEEK EXPERT ADVICE: Fighting Blindness Canada strongly recommends that you seek professional insurance and legal advice to ensure your financial goals are considered, your tax situation reviewed, and that your legacy gift is tailored to your circumstances. A life insurance specialist should review in detail what plan best fits your needs. Before considering a legacy gift of life insurance, you should already have satisfied any need for life insurance for the protection of your family. Insurance rules differ in the province of Quebec. Seek out a Quebec specialist for advice if you reside in the province.

For more information on this or other gifts to Fighting Blindness Canada please contact Doug Smith, Manager, Planned Giving and Donor Relations, at dsmith@fightingblindness.ca or 1-800-461-3331 Ext. 237

