

Own a Company

by Mike Volker



Why Own a Business?

- tax savings (T4, GST, etc) (a major benefit!)
- ◆ corporate benefits
- ◆ prestige
- ◆ accessibility
- ullet discounts, memberships, travel, etc
- ◆ Fun and profit



Now is Best Time to Start

- ◆ You have expenses, right?
- ◆ You want to save some money, right?
- ♦ Why not? What's the downside?
- ◆ Start small, e.g. sell your time...(hobby?)
- ${\color{blue} \bullet}$ No need to generate revenue right away
- ◆ All you need is "intent to generate income" (within 5 years)



Starting a Business



What "Form" of Business?

- ◆ Proprietorship (just pick a name!) "Myself"
 - -pick a name
 - -have a "business plan"
 - -keep records of expenses
- ◆ Partnership "Myself & others" -more than one proprietor
- ◆ Incorporation "corporate body" -a new legal entity



Incorporation:

What are you doing when you incorporate?

- ◆ New Taxpayer
- ◆ New legal entity ("inc.", "ltd", "Corp")
- ♦ One or many owners
- ◆ Separate Mind and Management



Considerations re Incorporating

- ◆ Small potatoes or big time?
- ◆ Number of owners (E.g. partners, investors)
- ♦ Personal liabilities issues
- ◆ Personal tax advantages?
- ♦ Business (or market) advantages?
- ◆ Red Tape aspects?



Why Incorporate?

- personal liability protection (to a large degree)
- ◆ substantial tax advantages (especially when you sell a business, eg \$500K TaxFree)
- high degree of flexibility in personal financial planning
- greater control in transferring ownership
- easier to bring in outside investors and other partners
- a company survives human death



How to Incorporate?

- ♦ Get a lawyer (don't need to, don't want to...but...?)
- ◆ Cost? \$400 to \$1000.
- ◆ Provincial or Federal?
- ◆ Pick a Name (What's in a name?)
- ♦ Ownership (who, %, #shares,classes)
- ♦ Directors (legally liable)
- ◆ Officers (President, Secretary...and ?)



Other Considerations:

- ◆ Raising capital by selling shares
- ◆ A corporation's capital can be expanded (more money, new people, etc)
- Shares can be easily distributed (e.g. to family members,other companies.)
- Estate and family planning is easier.



Public vs Private Companies

- ♦ All are incorporated
- public means publicly, freely tradeable (NB Strict Securities Regulations)
- ◆ Several shareholders
- ◆ Public = liquidity (i.e. a market for shares)
- ◆ Public gold fish bowl



Summary

- ♦ Start a "business"
- ◆ Consider Incorporation (right time, right reasons)
- ◆ Get a mentor(s)