

# *Have You Considered...*

## (A Checklist of Separation or Divorce Issues)

### 1. Parenting Issues

- Parenting plan/Time sharing
- Vacation / holiday arrangements
- Joint decision-making (How will you decide things in the future?)
- Mobility issues (What if one parent moves to another area?) - eg. schooling
- What do we want our children to know or understand?

### 2. Financial Issues

- Financial disclosure
- Child support
  - child support guidelines
  - other considerations:
    - (eg. clothing, sports/recreation, special lessons, allowances, day care expenses, camp, vacations, tuition/books, school supplies, dental/medical expenses, transportation, grooming/ toiletry expenses, meals outside the home, groceries, life insurance, gifts, life insurance for supporting parents, travel health coverage)
- Spousal support

### 3. Marital Property Division

- Matrimonial home
- Vehicles (cars, trucks, trailers, boats, campers, snowmobiles)
- Pets
- Household contents
  - (eg. appliances, furniture, artwork, gifts from the marriage, jewellery, family heirlooms, collections, children's belongings, audio/visual equipment, snowblowers, lawnmowers, gardening tools)
- Savings (bank accounts, stocks, bonds, cashable life insurance policies)
- RRSPs, pension plans
- Business assets
- Other properties: land, cottages, rental properties
- Debts or liabilities (mortgages, loans, liens, credit cards)

### 4. Other Factors to Consider

- On-going costs
  - (eg. rent, home maintenance, utilities, mortgage payments, loan or lease payments)
- Other relationships (new romantic interests, etc.)
- Income tax implications
- Resources available to help make informed decisions, such as...
  - lawyers (legal advice)
  - accountants (tax advice, exploring financial options, establishing business values, etc.)
  - real estate appraisers (establishing house or other real estate property values)
- Wills & other legal documents may need to be updated.
- Not everything needs to be decided at once.
  - Some issues may be of immediate concern; some are better dealt with at a later date.
  - Temporary or "let's try it and see" agreements are an option.
- Few things stay the same over time.