

Life Insurance 101 for CPAs

The tax mechanics of corporate-owned life insurance — the CDA, the ACB, and how to spot a planning case in a client file. Detailed agenda & learning objectives.

DATE

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

TIME

12:00 – 1:00 PM ET

FORMAT

Live webinar (Zoom)

DURATION

1.0 technical hour

CPD note: This session is 1.0 technical hour and may be eligible for Verifiable CPD — members should consult the member regulations. Supporting documentation provided: certificate of attendance, session attendance log, five-question technical quiz, full slide deck (PDF), and this agenda.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Distinguish** term from permanent life insurance and explain how the exempt policy test (Reg 306) shelters policy growth from annual accrual taxation.
- 2 Explain** the tax treatment of corporate-owned life insurance: premium non-deductibility (para 18(1)(a)), tax-exempt CSV accumulation, and receipt of the death benefit without a deemed disposition (ss. 70(5.3)).
- 3 Calculate** a Capital Dividend Account credit (death benefit - ACB) and describe how NCPI erosion of the ACB increases the credit over the life of a policy.
- 4 Assess** how exempt policy growth interacts with the passive-income rules (ss. 125(5.1)) and the small business deduction.
- 5 Identify** the client-file situations — surplus retained earnings, AAI grind, pre-sale restructuring, unfunded buy-sell obligations, estate equalization — where corporate-owned insurance planning warrants specialist involvement.

SESSION AGENDA

12:00	Welcome & documentation — how the certificate, quiz, and attendance log work
12:03	Why this hour pays for itself — where insurance decisions intersect a CPA practice
12:08	Module 1 · Fundamentals — term vs. permanent, CSV accumulation, the exempt test (Reg 306)
12:16	Module 2 · Ownership structure — personal vs. corporate ownership; the ownership/beneficiary mismatch trap
12:21	Module 3 · The provisions that matter — 18(1)(a) · s. 148 · 148(7) · 70(5.3) · 125(5.1)
12:27	Module 4 · The Capital Dividend Account — mechanics, credit calculation, ACB/NCPI erosion, the 83(2) election
12:35	Module 5 · The numbers — corporate passive investing vs. the insured structure, illustrated
12:39	Module 6 · Lifetime access — policy loans, partial surrenders, and collateral lending (IFA) at a 101 level
12:44	Module 7 · Recognizing the case — the client-file trigger checklist; errors CPAs are best positioned to catch
12:50	Working a case with a specialist — the collaboration model; resource pack
12:53	Live Q&A

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED TO ATTENDEES

Certificate

Attendance certificate with participant name, date, and duration.

Attendance log

Zoom attendance record retained by Dundas Wealth.

Technical quiz

Five questions on the session material, with answer key.

Slide deck

Complete deck as PDF with all ITA references.

Resource pack

CDA one-pager, client-file checklist, and COLI technical summary.