



WELCOME TO THE EMERGE ARK INNOVATION REVIEW WITH SPECIAL TAX SEGMENT

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Thank you for joining! We will begin shortly.



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INTRODUCING KNOWLEDGE BUREAU

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THE ISSUES

How does holding a Canadian vs. a U.S. ETF affect your after-tax returns?



THE ISSUES



- Holding Foreign Properties
- Distributions
- Estate Planning Issues

Types of distributions – in general

Capital gains

Canadian dividends

Foreign income and foreign taxes paid

Interest and other income

Return of capital (ROC)

Distributions – Canadian ETFs (to Canadian residents)

- Capital gains and Canadian source dividends flow out to unitholders – allows character of income to flow out to unit holders and be taxed accordingly
 - Capital gains – 50% of capital gain (known as a taxable capital gain) is taxed at ordinary rates
 - Eligible dividends
 - Not-eligible dividends
- Foreign income and foreign taxes paid flow out to unitholders – allows unit holders to claim foreign tax credits
- Interest and other income – taxed at marginal tax rate as ordinary income
- Return of capital – not taxable, reduces adjusted cost base (ACB), essentially a return of part of the unit holder's initial investment

Distributions – U.S. ETFs (to Canadian residents)

Treated as foreign (U.S.) source income

Since a factual U.S. corporation, Canada treats as U.S. RIC as a foreign (U.S.) corporation

Distributions treated as foreign (U.S.) source dividends

Canadian foreign tax credit may be limited to 15%

Full distribution taxed at marginal tax rates – NO preferential Canadian tax treatment (capital gains, Canadian source dividends, ROC)

Any preferential U.S. treatment NOT relevant for Canadian tax purposes

Taxation at death

- Canadian
 - Deemed to have disposed of ALL capital assets at fair market value resulting in either a capital gain or capital loss
 - Exceptions – property left to surviving spouse – then transferred at tax cost
 - Would include Canadian and U.S. ETFs

Taxation at death

- United States
 - U.S. ETFs considered U.S. situs assets
 - In general, a U.S. ETF is a U.S. corporation that has elected to be treated as a “regulated investment company” (RIC) for U.S. tax purposes.
 - Allows U.S. corporation to deduct distributions in computing its taxable income
 - Subject to U.S. estate tax – based on FMV of assets NOT inherent gain.
 - Under U.S. Internal Revenue Code (IRC) only US\$60,000 of assets are excluded from U.S. estate to U.S. nonresidents/non-citizens
 - Ability to use Article XXIX-B of Canada-United States Tax Convention (1980)
 - Highly political
 - Under Trump – 2021 exemption amount US \$11.7 million – 40% top marginal tax rate
 - Biden – proposes to reduced exemption amount to US \$3.5 million and increase top marginal rate to 45%

Foreign Reporting

Form T1135, "Foreign Income Verification Statement"

Due at the same time as the taxpayer's return

Significant penalties for non-compliance

Generally must be filed if taxpayer has

- Specified foreign property (would include U.S. based ETFs)
- Where tax cost, in aggregate, exceeds C\$100,000
- *At any time during the year.*
- Think – investment assets
- Does NOT include personal-use property or listed personal property

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