

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LegalWills.ca Launches Unique Internet Estate Planning Services**

Ottawa, Ontario, November 3, 2000 – LegalWills.ca has launched a unique portfolio of services that allow consumers to communicate their final wishes to loved ones after they have passed away. The interactive web site includes services for describing funeral wishes, drafting a legal Will and preparing multimedia messages.

Many people are uncomfortable with the topic of their own death and do not take the time to express their funeral wishes clearly to their family members. Now, as a free service offered by LegalWills.ca, members are able to document their funeral wishes by answering a series of questions related to the style, cost and format of their own funeral. These wishes can then be printed for safekeeping, or stored on the secure LegalWills.ca server. The member then designates specific friends and/or family members as “Keyholders”, who are each assigned a unique password. Only after the member passes away can the information be accessed.

In addition, a lawyer approved Canadian Legal Will service is now available. Users of this service are presented with a series of comprehensive questions, written in plain language, the answers to which form the basis of their Will. Clear, concise, online help is available at every step of the way, so that consumers do not need to be legal experts to create their own legal Will.

LegalWills.ca has also introduced a free “MyMessages” service which allows members to create multimedia messages to friends and loved ones. These messages remain completely secure until they are eventually unlocked by a designated Keyholder after the member has passed away. The MyMessages service is for those people who possess some important information, but don’t want to rely on a sealed envelope which may either be opened prematurely, or never be discovered.

“Unfortunately, most of us do not take the time to make our final plans. 70 percent of Canadians do not have a legal Will, and of the 30 percent who do, most are out of date” explains CEO Tim Hewson. “In addition, many people have specific preferences for certain aspects of their funeral, but few have clearly communicated their funeral wishes. It is clear that many people are looking for a more effective approach to funeral and estate planning, but engaging professional help can be very inconvenient and expensive while existing products such as do-it-yourself Will kits are very disappointing.”

## **About LegalWills.ca**

LegalWills.ca is a privately owned corporation established in Ontario, Canada, providing online services which span the globe. By using a unique “Member-Keyholder” model, combined with the latest in secure encryption technologies, LegalWills.ca allows its members to document, maintain and communicate their parting wishes in a very easy, secure, convenient and cost-effective manner. This includes legal documents such as Wills, Power of Attorney, Living Wills, funeral plans, online memorials, last messages, medical health care directives, estate planning and other advance directives. All legal documents and wishes are created, stored and maintained by members online, in a completely private and secure manner, accessible only to designated friends or family members when the time is right, and from anywhere in the world. LegalWills.ca is an independent organization, not tied to a funeral home or law firm, and does not provide legal advice or counsel.

For more information about the unique portfolio of estate planning services offered by LegalWills.ca, including the Canadian Legal Will service, visit [www.legalwills.ca](http://www.legalwills.ca) or contact [media@legalwills.ca](mailto:media@legalwills.ca).