**Case Studies – Saving the Golden Goose**

**Case Study 1 – The Angry Wife and Car Dealership - The Facts:**

Nine-year marriage. Wife is school teacher. Wife and Husband had domestic issues that resulted in the arrest of the wife. Wife feels wronged and vengeful of husband. Husband owns and operates a small car dealership. The dealership was previously operated by husband’s father. On date of marriage, husband’s father owned dealership but was operated (as if owned) by husband. Children originally in prime residency with father, transitioned to shared parenting. Matter was originally before the courts, changed to a collaborative file.

**Case Study 2 – The Legacy – The Facts:**

Thirty-five-year marriage and grown children. Wife is shareholder but not active in business. Husband fully active but with health issues. Both parties do not want children to know about the assets of the parents and the companies. Risks to taxation exposure, succession planning. How to wind up the marriage and ensure that the wife is not involved in the businesses, can trust the distribution of company assets from the husband post separation, ensure that new partners do not disrupt the legacy and succession plans. Is it possible to draft a separation agreement that honours the goals and interests of the clients with dismantling the companies?

**Case Study 3 – The not-so-silent Partner – The Facts:**

Long-term marriage in which husband and wife previously divorced and re-married. Start of Bindery business during the marriage. Husband and wife own HoldCo. Husband owns 75% and Partner with 25% of Operating Company becomes actively involved in the collaborative process and wants to sit at the table to negotiate. Children become part of the negotiating process by speaking to one parent for the other parent outside of the process. Business valued but value decreasing due to the changing business landscape and the husband having health issues and needs to take time away from the business since the date of separation.

**Case Study 4 – The Failing Business – The Facts:**

Thirty-year marriage. Husband recent retired firefighter, wife’s business failing due to poor management of the business. Secured business debts to family assets without husband’s consent. Is husband responsible for wife’s business debts? How do you ensure that the family can exit the process with a secure economic future when all equalization paid by husband would go to pay creditors?