The Tax Moves Checklist

What owners and cross-border families most often miss

- [ ] **Pick the entity on math, not habit**
  Compare S-corp, LLC, and C-corp outcomes at your actual profit level.
- [ ] **Set tax aside as you earn**
  A fixed percentage moved monthly beats an April scramble.
- [ ] **Pay quarterly estimates on real numbers**
  Safe-harbor rules protect you; guessing doesn't.
- [ ] **Run payroll for yourself correctly**
  Owner compensation is a tax lever, set deliberately.
- [ ] **Capture home-office, vehicle, and phone use**
  Documented, these are deductions; undocumented, they're risk.
- [ ] **Time income and expenses around year-end**
  A December invoice and a January one are different tax years.
- [ ] **Fund retirement through the business**
  Solo 401(k) and SEP limits dwarf personal IRAs.
- [ ] **Check both sides of the border**
  RRSP, TFSA, FBAR, and T1135 rules don't forgive “I didn't know.”
- [ ] **Keep books closed monthly**
  Deductions die in shoeboxes; clean books find money.
- [ ] **Put the plan in writing before December**
  Tax savings mostly happen before year-end, not at filing.