

Brian MASSE

M.P. Windsor West



WINDSOR WEST UPDATE

April 2019

Dear friends,

It's tax time again and this year's deadline is April 30, 2019. As this date draws close, I have included some of the new tax tips and deductions available to Canadians on the back pages of this mailing. You can see all ten tax tips at my website at www.brianmasse.ca under the "community mailings" tab.



Some things to remember:

- ◆ Most Canadians' income tax and benefit returns are due on April 30, 2019. Self-employed individuals have until June 15, 2019 to file their returns. Since June 15, 2019 falls on a Saturday, the CRA considers your return to be filed on time, if the CRA receives it by or it is postmarked midnight June 17, 2019. However, if you have a balance owing, you must pay it by April 30, 2019.
- ◆ From now until April 30, 2019, the CRA will be offering extended evening and weekend hours for individual tax enquiries. Approximately 3,000 telephone agents will be available Monday to Friday (except holidays) from 9 am to 9 pm (local time), and from 9 am to 5 pm (local time) on Saturdays (except Easter weekend) to serve as many people as possible. This automated service will remain available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- ◆ By February 11, 2019, the CRA will have mailed the income tax package to individuals who filed on paper the previous year. The new all-in-one 2018 income tax package is improved with simplified language, enhanced information on forms and has a more user-friendly design. If you did not receive this, and you file by paper, please call CRA: **1-800-959-8281**.
- ◆ In addition to the mail out, a limited quantity of tax packages will still be available at Canada Post and Service Canada locations. Canadians will also find information to order these products by phone: **1-800-959-8281**.
- ◆ Individuals with a modest income and a simple tax situation may be eligible to have their tax return completed for free through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. Free tax clinics are offered across Canada during March and April, with some open year-round. To find one nearest you please visit: https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/oecv/external/prot/cli_srch_01_ld.action.

Lastly, please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions and we will get you the information you need. Call my team at 519.255.1631 or email brian.masse@parl.gc.ca. Stay in touch!

Brian Masse MP
Windsor West

Beware of CRA Scams

Scammers posing as Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) employees continue to contact Canadians, misleading them into paying false debt. These persistent scammers have created fear among people who now automatically assume that any communication from someone representing the CRA is not genuine.

This tax tip will remind Canadians that the CRA does indeed contact taxpayers by phone, email and mail for legitimate reasons. The following tips will help Canadians identify legitimate communications from the CRA.



brian.masse@parl.gc.ca

www.brianmasse.ca

Canada Caregiver Amount & Eligible Dependant

If you are eligible for the Canada caregiver amount for your spouse or common-law partner, or an eligible dependant 18 years of age or older, and his or her net income is between \$6,986 and \$23,046, you may be able to claim an amount up to a maximum of \$6,883. However, you must first claim the amount of \$2,182 in calculating the spouse or common-law partner amount; or the amount for an eligible dependant 18 years of age or older.

The CRA may ask for a signed statement from a medical practitioner indicating the nature of the impairment, when it began, what its duration is expected to be, and that the person is dependent on others because of this impairment in physical or mental functions.

Medical Expenses

You can claim a long list of eligible medical expenses—e.g. contact lenses, orthopaedics or prescription drugs—which were paid for in 2018 and not claimed in 2017.

You can claim any health care expenses that are in excess of \$2,268 or 3 per cent of your personal income (whichever is smaller). There is no limit on the amount of expenses a taxpayer can claim for him- or herself, a spouse or common-law partner, or a child under 18.

There is also no claim limit for those who care for an aging parent, sibling or other relative. You can claim medical expenses paid in any 12-month period ending in 2018 and not claimed in 2017.

Before giving money or personal information over the phone

Make sure the caller is a CRA employee

- Ask for, or make a note of, the caller's name, phone number, and office location and tell them that you want to first verify their identity.
- You can then check that the employee calling you about your taxes works for the CRA or that the CRA did contact you by calling 1-800-959-8281 for individuals or 1-800-959-5525 for businesses. If the call you received was about a government program such as Student Loans or Employment Insurance, call 1-866-864-5823.

