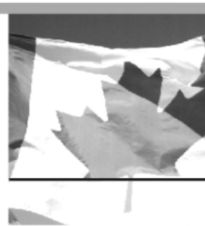


Brian MASSE

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

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.



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Important message to people 60 and older about RRSPs

Do not cash out your RRSPs if possible, if you must do so, find out about possible consequences with a tax expert or from Service Canada!

In some cases, it is advantageous to transfer an RRSP to a RRIF before it is cashed to ensure eligibility for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). You may suffer large cuts or even reduce your **Allowance payments for people aged 60 to 64, Survivor Allowance and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)** to zero. These programs are part of the **Old-age security system**.

The calculation of government benefits is adjusted in July of each year and is based on reported income and deductions from the previous year on your tax return. You will not suffer the consequences immediately of a rushed cashing of your RRSPs, but only the following year.

Since RRSPs are part of your income, you must think before you use them.

When you withdraw funds from your RRSPs, you must choose one of the following options:

- withdraw funds (not recommended if you have a small income);
- transfer funds to a RRIF (Registered Retirement Income Fund);
- use the funds to buy an annuity.

Your RRSP issuer will not withhold tax on amounts that are transferred directly to your RRIF or used to purchase an annuity. You may have to pay income tax when you start receiving payments from a RRIF. Report these payments as income in your income tax and benefit return for the year in which you receive them.

It is also important to note that December 31 of the year you turn 71 is the last date by which you can contribute to your RRSPs.

For more information, please visit:

www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/rrsps-related-plans.html



Information on tax scams and fraud
can be found at:

canada.ca/taxes-fraud-prevention

To report scams

To report any tax scams, go to antifraudcentre.ca or call 1-888-495-8501. If you think you may be the victim of fraud or you unknowingly provided personal or financial information to any suspected scammer, contact the local police service (Windsor Police Service is 519-258-6111 for Non-Emergencies), financial institution, and credit reporting agencies.