

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/ocv/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.



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Tax Tips for Your Children

Child care Tax Credit

Taking care of a child is a rewarding and important responsibility. To make it a little easier on parents, they have the ability to deduct child care expenses from their income. These are amounts either you or another person paid to have someone look after an eligible child so that you or the other person can earn income from employment. The same applies when you or your partner is self-employed, attend school or do research work.

Adoption expenses

You can claim an amount for eligible adoption expenses related to the adoption of a child who is under 18 years of age. The maximum claim for each child is \$15,670. Two adoptive parents can split the amount if the total combined claim for eligible expenses for each child is not more than the amount before the split. Parents can only claim these incurred expenses in the tax year including the end of the adoption period for the child.

Canada child benefit (COB) and child disability benefit (COB)

If you are responsible for the care and upbringing of a child who is under 18 years of age, you can apply for the CCB for that child. Apply as soon as possible after the child is born or starts to live with you. The CDB is paid monthly to the Canada child benefit (CCB) eligible individuals. A child is eligible for the disability tax credit when a medical practitioner certifies that the child has a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions, and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) approves the form.

The CRA may

- notify you by email when a new message or a document, such as a notice of assessment or reassessment, is available for you to view in secure CRA portals such as My Account, My Business Account, or Represent a Client

The CRA will never

- give or ask for personal or financial information by email and ask you to click on a link
- email you a link asking you to fill in an online form with personal or financial details

