



Fact Sheet

Are you a newcomer to Canada?

Canada's tax system

Many of the benefits people enjoy in Canada are made possible through taxes. Canada's tax system pays for roads, public utilities, schools, health care, economic development, cultural activities, defence, and law enforcement. One main form of taxation in Canada is income tax.

In Canada, many employers and payers deduct taxes from the income they pay you. Each year, residents of Canada (including newcomers) list their income, deductions, and tax credits on an income tax return to calculate their federal and provincial or territorial taxes payable for the year.

When you complete a tax return, you also give the federal government the information it needs to determine if you qualify for the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit, and the Canada Child Tax Benefit and related provincial or territorial benefits.

Under Canada's tax system, it is your right and responsibility to determine your income tax status and to pay your correct amount of taxes for each year according to the law.

Guide RC17, *Taxpayer Bill of Rights Guide: Understanding Your Rights as a Taxpayer*, outlines the fair treatment you are entitled to receive when you deal with us. You can get a copy of this document by going to www.cra.gc.ca/forms, or by calling 1-800-959-2221 (calls from Canada and the United States).

Residency status

Generally, you become a resident of Canada for income tax purposes when you establish significant residential ties in Canada; usually on the date you arrive. Residential ties include a home in Canada, a spouse or common-law partner and dependants who move to Canada to live with you, personal property such as a car or furniture, and social ties in Canada.

For more information about residency, get Pamphlet T4055, *Newcomers to Canada*, by going to www.cra.gc.ca/forms, or by calling 1-800-959-2221.

Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) and Child Disability Benefit (CDB)

If you are primarily responsible for the care and upbringing of a child who lives with you and is under 18 years of age, you may be eligible for monthly CCTB and related payments for that child.

To apply for the CCTB and related provincial or territorial benefits, send us a completed Form RC66, *Canada Child Benefits Application*. Depending on your immigration and residency status, you may have to complete Schedule RC66SCH, *Status in Canada/Statement of Income*. You can also receive the CDB, a supplement of the CCTB, if your child meets the criteria for the disability amount and we approve Form T2201, *Disability Tax Credit Certificate*, for that child.

Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB)

The UCCB is an initiative designed to assist Canadian families. Enrolment is processed through the Canada Child Benefits Application.

Families receive \$100 per month for each child under six years of age.

For more information or to get the Canada Child Benefits package and Form T2201, *Disability Tax Credit Certificate*, visit www.cra.gc.ca, or call 1-800-387-1193.

Goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit

GST is a tax that you pay on most goods and services sold or provided in Canada. In some provinces, the GST is combined with the provincial sales tax to form the HST. The GST/HST credit helps individuals and families with low and modest income to offset all or part of the GST or HST that they pay.

You may be entitled to the GST/HST credit after your arrival in Canada. For more information, see Form RC151, *GST/HST Credit Application for Individuals Who Become Residents of Canada*.

For more information about the GST/HST credit and related provincial credits, see Pamphlet RC4210, *GST/HST Credit*, or call 1-800-959-1953.

Do you have to file a tax return?

Even if you lived in Canada for only part of the year, you may have to file a tax return. For example, you have to file a tax return if you owe tax, or if you want to claim a refund.

Even if you have no income to report or tax to pay, you must file a tax return to apply for the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit, or if you or your spouse wants to begin or to continue receiving the Canada Child Tax Benefit and related provincial or territorial benefits.

Where can you get the tax package you need?

You can get the *General Income Tax and Benefit Guide* and forms book (which includes an income tax and benefit return) at www.cra.gc.ca/forms, or by calling **1-800-959-2221**.

If you lived in Quebec on December 31, you may have to file a separate provincial return. For more information, visit www.revenuquebec.ca, or call **1-800-267-6299**.

Social insurance number

As a newcomer to Canada, you will need a social insurance number (SIN). The SIN is a nine-digit identification number that is unique, personal, and confidential. It is used to identify you for income tax and benefit purposes, as well as to update your record of earnings for your contributions to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) or the Quebec Pension Plan (QPP). You have to give your SIN to anyone who prepares tax information slips for you.

If you have a SIN that starts with the number 9, a temporary tax number, or an individual tax number, and you decide to become a permanent resident of Canada, you have to apply for a new SIN.

You can apply for a SIN at your nearest Service Canada office. For more information on how to apply for a SIN or to find a Service Canada centre near you, visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca, or call **1-800-206-7218**.

What date is your tax return due?

Generally, your tax return has to be filed **on or before April 30** of the year following the year for which the tax return is being filed.

If you owe tax and you file your return late, we will charge you a late-filing penalty and interest on any unpaid amounts.

For more information

If you need help after reading this publication, visit www.cra.gc.ca, see Pamphlet T4055, *Newcomers to Canada*, or contact us at:

International Tax Services Office
Post Office Box 9769, Station T
Ottawa ON K1G 3Y4
CANADA

Calls from Canada and the United States:
1-800-267-5177

Calls from outside Canada and the United States:
613-952-3741

We accept collect calls.

Need help completing your tax return?

You can get help to complete your tax return through our Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. Volunteers in the program offer help, free of charge, through their community organizations.

For more information about this free program, go to www.cra.gc.ca/volunteer, or call **1-800-959-8281**.