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WHAT'S NEW IN 2016

TAX TIPS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

[Tax Return Due Date](#)

Most 2016 personal income tax returns have a due date of May 1, 2017, because April 30th falls on a Sunday. **Self-employed individuals** have until June 15th to file their personal tax returns, but *any amounts owing must still be paid by May 1st*.

[Federal GST-HST Credit - Turning 19 in 2017 - File a Tax Return for 2016!](#)

The GST-HST credit is a tax-free payment paid quarterly, to eligible recipients 19 or older, or to younger spouses or parents. Many provinces also provide a credit to be paid in conjunction with the GST-HST credit. A single person with income of \$42,000 or less in 2015 would have received a GST-HST credit for July 2016 to June 2017.

[Caregiver Amount If Parent or Grand Parent Lives With You](#)

If you have a parent or grandparent over the age of 65 living with you, **even if they are not your dependant** you could be eligible for the caregiver amount of \$4,667, if their net income was less than \$20,607 in 2016. This can also be claimed for dependent relatives over the age of 17 who are living with you, if they are dependent on you due to mental or physical impairment. Each province and territory also has a caregiver tax credit.

[Moving Expenses Re School or New Job](#)

If you moved at least 40km to be closer to a new job, to run a business, or to attend a post-secondary educational institute full time, then you may deduct moving expenses, up to the amount you earn at the new location, or up to the amount of taxable award or scholarship income received in the year. A move between two locations outside Canada can sometimes be an "eligible relocation".



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[T4 Slips - Requirements, How to Complete and File](#)

T4 slips for 2016 must be distributed to employees on or before February 28, 2016. They can be filed online, no need to wait for a web access code. Wages paid in January 2017 for December 2016 wages will NOT be reported on a 2016 T4.

[Access CPP and OAS Slips Online](#)

With Service Canada's online Tax Information Slips service, you can access your official OAS, CPP or EI tax slips earlier, and file your income tax sooner. Your tax slips for the prior year are available online as early as February.

[NetFile and EFile Available February 20, 2017](#)

NetFile will be available from Feb 20, 2017 to Jan 19, 2018 for filing 2013 to 2016 personal income tax returns. EFile will be available during the same period, for filing 2012 to 2016 personal income tax returns.

[Auto-Filing of Tax Returns](#)

For the 2016 taxation year, CRA is introducing a new service to be provided through certified tax preparation software. Information from tax slips filed with CRA can be used to automatically fill in parts of a current-year income tax return.

[TD1 Forms for Employees and Pensioners](#)

The TD1 forms for 2017 are now available from Canada Revenue Agency. If there have been changes which will affect your tax exemptions (see our article), you should ensure that you complete these forms so that your employer (or other payer) will deduct the appropriate amount of income tax from your employment income or pension income. New employees should always complete these forms. For those working only part time, if your total income for the year will not exceed your exemptions, you should tick the appropriate box on the back of the form, so that your employer will not deduct any income tax from your pay cheques.



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[Tax-Free Motor Vehicle Allowances 2016](#)

The per-kilometre amounts that may be paid tax-free to employees or officers as reimbursement for motor vehicle expenses incurred while travelling for business purposes using their personal vehicle have been reduced by 1 cent for 2017 to 54 cents per km for the first 5,000 km and 48 cents per km for each additional km. For the Territories, the rates have also been reduced by 1 cent, to 58 cents per km for the first 5,000 km and 52 cents per km for each additional km.

[Tax Free Savings Account \(TFSA\) Contribution Limit](#)

The new Liberal government included in their platform the reversal of the increased contributions for TFSAs. We expect this would mean replacing the \$10,000 limit with the previous \$5,500 limit.