

TAX GUIDE

LOWER TAXES
TO HELP YOU



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DEAR RESIDENTS of Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Did you take advantage of all the tax cuts available to you last year?

This tax guide outlines the tax cuts available to you for your 2010 income tax return. In addition, it provides a synopsis of tax benefits available to your family to reduce your tax load.

Since 2006, our Conservative Government has helped Canadians by reducing taxes in over 100 different ways. These include:

- cuts to the GST
- cuts in income taxes
- introduction of the landmark Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) to help Canadians save
- targeted tax cuts for families, seniors, and businesses

In total, we have helped a typical Canadian family save nearly \$3,000 on average per year.

SINCERELY,

Maurice Vellacott



DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

Please do not hesitate to contact the Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-8281, or online at www.cra-arc.gc.ca, for more information.

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LOWER TAXES FOR ALL CANADIANS




TAX-FREE SAVINGS ACCOUNT (TFSA)

Canadians have many reasons to save for the future, like a home renovation, retirement or even medical expenses. The Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) can help all Canadians work towards their short- and long-term financial goals.

Our Conservative Government's TFSA is a flexible, registered savings account that allows Canadians to save for their future. Investment income, including capital gains, earned within the account is not taxed and withdrawals are tax-free.

No matter what your income level, the TFSA can help you save money. Canadians who are 18 and older can contribute no more than \$5,000 every year, with unused room carried forward. Whether you're starting your career, or thinking about retirement, the TFSA is a great way to save money and keep hard-earned dollars in your pocket.



**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FINANCIAL
INSTITUTION OR VISIT WWW.TFSA.GC.CA TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RULES AROUND
THIS IMPORTANT SAVINGS VEHICLE.**



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PUBLIC TRANSIT TAX CREDIT

Canadians who choose public transit are making a choice that's good for the wallet and for the environment. Our Conservative Government believes public transit users deserve extra help, which is why we delivered the Public Transit Tax Credit.

Transit users can claim a non-refundable tax credit of 15 per cent of the cost of their monthly or yearly public transit passes. This means that if you buy transit passes that cost \$85 per month, you could save over \$150 per year. That's like getting almost two months free.

Retain your receipts as proof of purchase because whether you're going to work, taking your children to daycare, or heading to the movies, our Public Transit Tax Credit will make it more affordable to get you where you need to go while helping our environment at the same time.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST) CREDIT

Conservatives know that the tax burden on Canadians is too high. That's why we're committed to lowering taxes and giving Canadians a break every way we can.

The GST credit is a tax-free quarterly payment that helps individuals and families with modest incomes offset all or part of the GST that they pay.

But don't forget, to receive the GST credit, you have to apply for it, even if you received it last year.

DEDUCT MEDICAL EXPENSES

Costly medical expenses can be difficult to fit into any family budget, especially as we grow older. Thankfully, Conservatives are helping you and your family meet your health care needs by providing a deduction for medical expenses.

An expense is generally eligible to be claimed under this tax credit if it's directly related to a disability or a medical condition. You can claim medical expenses paid in any 12-month period ending in 2010 and not claimed in 2009.



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WWW.CRA-ARC.GC.CA.**

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LOWER TAXES FOR FAMILIES



UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE BENEFIT

Being a parent is about making choices. Our Conservative Government believes that, when it comes to children, parents know best. That's why we created the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB). The UCCB provides families with \$100 per month for each child under the age of 6. That's \$1,200 per child, per year.

The UCCB allows parents to decide what is best for their kids. Rather than try to apply a 'one size fits all' approach, the UCCB lets parents choose. Whether that choice is daycare, staying with a relative, or having Mom or Dad stay home, the decision rests with parents, as it should.



Check for details by calling 1.800.387.1193 or by visiting www.universalchildcare.ca.



CHILDREN'S FITNESS TAX CREDIT

Our Conservative Government is taking action to help families with children meet their goals. At the same time, we are working to help parents teach their kids leadership, sportsmanship and healthy lifestyles. Through the Children's Fitness Tax Credit, our Conservative Government is helping more parents enrol their kids in sports and fitness programs.

CAREGIVER AMOUNT

Caring for a loved one who is dependent on you can be challenging both emotionally and financially. That's why our Conservative Government is providing Canadians with the Caregiver Amount.

If at any time in 2010 you (either alone or with another person) maintained a residence where you and the person you care for lived (a spouse or common-law partner is not considered your dependant for this purpose), you may be able to claim a maximum amount of \$4,223.

THE CHILD DISABILITY BENEFIT & THE REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PROGRAM

Since taking office in 2006, our Conservative Government not only increased the Child Disability Benefit for low and moderate-income families, but worked to ensure more families could be eligible for it.

We also created the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). Like the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), this action by our Government provides Canadian families with a new option to save for their children's future.

CANADA CHILD TAX BENEFIT & NATIONAL CHILD BENEFIT SUPPLEMENT

Low and middle-income families are getting a boost from our Conservative Government's increases to the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) and the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB).

These increases are resulting in more savings for those families who, in the past, would have just missed the eligibility mark. For example, a low-income family with two children can bring in up to \$436 in additional savings. A middle-income family with two children—\$76. Even if you feel your net income is too high, you should still apply.

DEDUCT CHILD CARE EXPENSES

Caring for a child is never easy, especially while juggling other commitments like work or school. That's why our Conservative Government is providing parents with the ability to deduct child care expenses from your 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 could: earn income from employment; operate a business either alone or as an active partner; attend school; or conduct research.



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LOWER TAXES FOR SENIORS



DOUBLING THE PENSION INCOME AMOUNT

Canadian seniors have worked hard and paid their dues. That's why our Conservative Government is delivering real tax savings to help seniors keep more money in their pockets, where it belongs.

Not only have seniors paid taxes, they've also saved for retirement. Years ago, the Government of Canada introduced a non-refundable pension income credit to apply to the first \$1,000 of eligible pension income. A lot has changed since then, which is why we've increased the maximum amount of eligible pension income that could be claimed to \$2,000. This results in even more savings that will make a real difference for pensioners.

INCREASING THE AGE AMOUNT

Canadian seniors have worked hard to prepare for their retirement. That's why our Conservative Government increased the Age Amount, helping low and middle-income seniors keep more money in their own bank accounts.

The Age Amount helps seniors aged 65 and over claim up to \$6,446 in allowable income, saving seniors as much as \$967 on their taxes this year. Since elected, our Government increased this allowable amount by \$2,000, providing even more support to Canadian seniors.

PENSION INCOME SPLITTING

To help ease the tax burden on Canadian pensioners, our Conservative Government introduced Pension Income Splitting. Our current tax system generally has each individual Canadian paying taxes on their full income earned. Pension Income Splitting allows any Canadian resident who receives qualifying pension income to allocate to their spouse (or common-law partner) with whom they reside, up to one-half of that income. In doing so, a pensioner and their family can dramatically reduce their tax load.

INCREASING THE AGE LIMIT FOR CONVERTING RRSPS TO RRIFs

Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) provide one of the best opportunities for Canadians to save for the future. Since RRSP contributions are not taxable, they are an ideal way to plan for retirement. However, some Canadians are restricted by the way RRSPs are structured. Even though they choose to continue working past 69, they have been required to convert their RRSP into a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) and begin making withdrawals.

Our Conservative Government is taking action for Canadians nearing retirement. We have increased the age limit for converting RRSPs to RRIFs from 69 to 71. Now, more Canadians will have the freedom to choose when they convert their RRSPs. We are delivering tax savings and choice for Canadian seniors.



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LOWER TAXES FOR HOME BUYERS



FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS' TAX CREDIT

The fees associated with purchasing your very first home can really add up. To help Canadians with these costs, our Conservative Government has introduced the First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit.

The First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit will allow Canadians to save up to \$750 on qualifying homes purchased after January 27, 2009.

The First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit is also available to existing homeowners who are eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) who purchase a more accessible or functional home to better suit their needs, or for the benefit of a DTC-eligible person who is related to the individual purchasing the home.

HOME BUYERS' PLAN

For many first-time home buyers or builders, saving for a down payment can be the most challenging part, especially while recovering from the global recession. To help Canadians saving for their first big purchase, our Conservative Government raised the amount Canadians can withdraw from their Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) for a down payment on their first home.

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, our Conservative Government increased the maximum Canadians can withdraw from the RRSP for a home purchase to \$25,000 with respect to withdrawals made after January 27, 2009. Through these important actions, our Conservative Government is helping Canadians realize their dream of buying a new home.



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LOWER TAXES FOR WORKING CANADIANS



WORKING INCOME TAX BENEFIT

For too long, many Canadians who relied on social assistance faced big challenges in joining the workforce. Landing a job could often cost low-income Canadians both higher taxes and reduced income support. This meant that Canadians who found a job could end up with less money in their pockets than before they found a job.

Our Conservative Government is taking action for workers through the Working Income Tax Benefit (WITB). This benefit is a refundable tax credit that supplements the earnings of low-income workers to ensure they aren't penalized for getting a job. What's more, for low-income working Canadians with a disability who face even larger barriers to workforce participation, WITB provides an additional disability supplement.

CANADA EMPLOYMENT AMOUNT

Having a job can mean many different work-related costs. But, why should work-related expenses limit the rewards of hard-working Canadians?

Our Conservative Government is putting money back into the pockets of working Canadians with the Canada Employment Amount. Most Canadian employees qualify for a tax credit on up to \$1,051 in 2010. Our Conservative Government is always working to lower your taxes; and, through this credit, we are making it easier for Canadians to keep the returns from their hard work.

LOWER TAXES FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS, FARMERS AND FISHERS

When a family farm, small business or fishing enterprise passes from one generation to the next, the property or shares are subject to Capital Gains Tax. In years previous, the first \$500,000 of the value was tax-free.

Our Conservative Government is helping small business owners, farmers and fishers keep their businesses in the family by increasing this exemption to \$750,000. By increasing the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption, our Conservative Government is taking real action to help keep family businesses where they belong: in the family.

APPRENTICESHIP JOB CREATION TAX CREDIT

For some employers, hiring new employees and apprentices is a challenge. However, apprentices depend upon these valuable work experiences in order to learn a new trade. For businesses that are hoping to make the most of every dollar while continuing to employ trades people in training, our Conservative Government introduced the Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit.

Employers who employ an eligible apprentice in a skilled trade in the first two years of an apprenticeship contract (registered with the federal, provincial, or territorial government) can be eligible to receive a non-refundable tax credit equivalent to 15 per cent of the salaries and wages paid to the apprentice. This can translate into tax savings for an employer of up to \$2,000 per eligible apprentice.



A complete list of eligible apprentice trades can be found at: www.redseal.ca.

TRADESPERSONS' DEDUCTION FOR TOOLS

Construction and trade workers need tools to carry out their jobs each and every day. But often these hard-working Canadians have to pay for these expenses up front and out of their own pockets. That's why our Conservative Government has introduced a tax deduction on tools that will help these workers save money this tax year. Construction and trade workers work hard for their money so our Conservative Government is working hard to help them save on their taxes.

MEAL EXPENSES OF LONG-HAUL TRUCK DRIVERS

When your job includes travelling Canada's roads, extra expenses will occur. From meals to gas, it can really add up. In general, the Canadian tax system limits business-related meal, entertainment, and other expenses to be deductible only up to 50 per cent.

Now, our Conservative Government has raised the deductible portion of meal expenses to 75 per cent for 2010 and it will go up again to 80 per cent for 2011. Long-haul truck drivers are getting more money back in their pockets for their time spent on Canada's roads. Our Conservative Government is delivering real results for hard-working people in Canada.



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LOWER TAXES FOR STUDENTS



TEXTBOOK TAX CREDIT

The costs of post-secondary education can be challenging for Canadian students and their parents. Along with tuition and living expenses, textbooks are a necessary part of post-secondary learning. Our Conservative Government is taking action to help offset the cost of the post-secondary education with the textbook tax credit.

The Textbook Tax Credit is another way that our Conservative Government is helping Canadian students achieve their dreams and their potential.

SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY EXEMPTION

Canada's students work hard to earn good grades while paying for their schooling. Our Conservative Government is helping ease the tax burden on hard-working students that achieve strong results by exempting scholarships, fellowships and bursaries from their income.

Getting an education shouldn't be taxing. Our Conservative Government is helping students and their families make post-secondary education more affordable and more attainable.



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