

New Items:

A refundable tax credit of up to \$7,500 has been introduced in Canada for home renovations accommodating a qualifying individual, parent aged 65 and older or an adult that qualifies for the disability tax credit. Taxpayers can deduct 15% of qualifying expenditures, incurred from January 1, 2023. The maximum deduction is \$50,000 per completed qualifying renovation in the year, with a lifetime limit of \$50,000 for each qualifying individual. Please provide details of your qualifying renovation expenses and/or backup documentation.

Refer to the following website for additional details:

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/programs/about-canada-revenue-agency-cra/federal-government-budgets/budget-2022-plan-grow-economy-make-life-more-affordable/multigenerational-home-renovation-tax-credit.html>

The First Home Savings Account (FHSA) aids Canadians in saving for their first home. It offers a significant financial incentive for first-time homeowners, allowing tax-deductible contributions. Income earned within the plan from qualified investments are tax-free. Starting April 1, 2023, annual contributions of up to \$8,000 are permitted, with a lifetime maximum of \$40,000. Qualifying withdrawals from the plan are not taxed. Provide your contribution receipt for amounts contributed between April 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Starting January 1, 2023, short-term ownership (less than 365 consecutive days) of residential real estate, including rental or personal properties, will result in full taxation as business income under the new "anti-flipping" rules. Exemptions may apply for specific circumstances such as death, marital breakdown, eligible relocation, or other life-changing events. Please provide details (purchase price, sale price and other applicable costs) of any properties that sold during the year that meet the above criteria.

Items of Annual Relevance:

Please send us all of your information slips (e.g. T-3, T-4, T-5, RRSP). Note that, if we do the accounting for your business, we may already have your most important T-slips stored in our files.

If you have sold any investments or earned interest income for which no slips are issued, please ask your broker to provide a gain/loss report and a summary of income and account fees. If your broker does not offer these reports, please prepare a summary of your investment account activity, including the costs and proceeds of any securities sold.

Be sure to let us know if any of your capital gains might qualify for the "lifetime capital gains exemption," now \$913,630 on the disposition of certain small business shares and \$1,000,000 on the sale of certain farm and fishing properties.

Let us know if you sold your principal residence in the year. Even if this is non-taxable, you still need to report the address, year acquired, and sales price on your tax return. Late-filing penalties of \$100 / month are levied on each owner who doesn't report these sales.

If you earned rental income, please provide us with a summary of your revenues and expenses for each property, or fill-out Appendix A: Rental Income and Expenses Worksheet. Please be sure to include only the interest portion of any mortgage payments.



- If you bought or sold real estate during the year, we need a summary of the purchase costs or sales proceeds, a recent property assessment, and your purchaser/vendor “statement of adjustments.”
- If you had self-employment or professional income, please summarize your revenues and expenses for each business, or fill-out Appendix B: Self-Employed Income and Expenses Summary. For those able to claim automobile expenses, be sure to include the total number of kilometers driven for the year with the business kilometers broken out, and the purchase or lease costs of any new cars.
- If your employer provided you with a T2200 “Declaration of Conditions of Employment” and you incurred deductible employment expenses, please send us the T2200, signed by your employer, along with a summary of all employment expenses such as the one provided in Appendix C: Employment Expenses Summary.
- While you do not need to send us expense receipts to support your Rental, Self-Employment, or Employment expenses, you do need to keep these receipts in your files and ready to provide to CRA for up to 6 years following the date of that year’s tax assessment.
- The deadline to make RRSPs contributions is 60 days after year-end. Make sure you send us your RRSP receipts for all contributions made up to date.
- Make sure you have official charity receipts if you want to claim the charitable donation tax credit. These should include the donor’s name, the donation date, the donation amount, and charity’s “RR” number.
- Similarly, medical expense receipts are often reviewed by CRA, so make sure yours include the date, a description of the procedure, the amount charged, and the names of both the practitioner and the patient. Please note that you still cannot claim the cost of most cosmetic procedures or over-the-counter vitamins and supplements (even if prescribed).
- Students take note, your educational institution should provide you with a tuition certificate (form T2202A, or TL11A for those at foreign institutions). These are necessary to claim most tuition credits. If you did not receive one, they are usually available online from your educational institution.
- Registered education savings plan withdrawals are often taxable. If you made a taxable withdrawal from a RESP this year you should receive a T4A – please send this to us.
- For parents with kids who are not filing tax returns with us, you may still be able to claim a portion of their unused tuition fees and medical expenses. We will need the kids’ T2202A’s and medical expense receipts, along with their taxable income figure, to determine what amount can be transferred.
- If you incurred child care expenses, please provide the amount along with the name and S.I.N. of the care giver, or the name/receipt from the relevant institution. Also, please provide us with the names, birthdates, and S.I.N.s (if applicable) of all of your children.
- New homeowners: you might qualify for the first-time home buyer’s tax credit, a \$1,500 benefit available for those who acquired a home during the year and who did not own another principal residence in any of the preceding 4 calendar years. Be sure to let us know if you think you qualify.



- If you have participated in the RRSP “Home Buyers’ Plan” by withdrawing funds from your RRSP to purchase a home, you are required to make annual repayments for up to 16 years. Please advise us if you wish to repay any amount other than the minimum.

- Elementary and secondary school teachers may be eligible to claim the school supplies tax credit for up to \$1,000 of non-reimbursed supplies, if used in their schools to teach or help students learn. Please let us know if you think you qualify for this credit.

- The home accessibility credit can be claimed for up to \$20,000 of home renovations, if done for the purpose of improving accessibility, functionality, or mobility, or for reducing the risk of harm within the dwelling for individuals who are 65 and older or who qualify for a disability tax certificate. Please let us know if you think you qualify for this credit.

- You can split up to 50% of your pension income with your spouse or common-law partner. If we prepare the returns for both you and your spouse or common law partner, you do not need to send us anything other than your regular income slips. If your spouse or common law partner has their return done elsewhere, we will need to coordinate with their accountants to ensure the tax filings are consistent.

- If you pay court-ordered alimony or spousal maintenance, please provide us with a summary of all payments made, together with the name and SIN of the recipient. Hold onto all cancelled cheques, legal agreements, and other proof of payment, since this deduction is frequently reviewed by CRA. Child support payments are not deductible, so it is important to distinguish between spousal support and child support.

- The “foreign property” reporting requirements make it necessary for our clients with interests in foreign trusts, or significant interests in foreign corporations or other foreign investments, to disclose this on their personal income tax return. Please contact us regarding this complex area.

First-Time Clients

- If this is the first time that we will be preparing your tax returns, please provide:
 - A complete copy of the previous year’s tax return
 - A copy of the previous year’s notice of assessment from CRA
 - An authorization form, allowing Rutwind Brar LLP to speak with CRA on your behalf. A copy of this form can be found on our website. Please fill out the Taxpayer information section, sign and date the form. Note that CRA now requires you to authorize our request through your CRA My Account within 10 business days. We will notify you once the request has been.

U.S. Citizens, ‘Green Card’ holders, or Individuals with U.S.-Sourced Income:

- If you reside in Canada, the deadline to file your U.S. personal income tax return is June 15th., unless you were employed by a U.S.-based employer and were subject to U.S. income tax withholdings. In that case, you must file by April 15th. Please enclose the various I.R.S. forms you may have received, such as the W-2, 1042-S, and 1099s and any additional information that would facilitate the preparation and completion of these returns. Also, we need to know your Social Security Number. U.S. citizens must declare their worldwide income to the I.R.S., but many of these persons completely avoid U.S. tax due to the “foreign earned income exclusion”, or other tax treaty-based exemptions. Regardless, all U.S. citizens and green card holders must file annual returns with the I.R.S. If you have any concerns regarding this, please contact us.

U.S. citizens resident in Canada would almost certainly have financial accounts (bank accounts, brokerages, etc.). These accounts require separate disclosure to the IRS. The required disclosures include the type of account, account number, name and address of the financial institution, and the highest dollar balance (or value) in that account during the year.

Canadian residents who receive certain U.S. Social Security benefits are allowed either a 50% or 15% deduction in respect of these benefits, dependent on when they began collection. If you did collect U.S. Social Security benefits, let us know if you began collecting these prior to January 1, 1996, so we can ensure you receive the correct deduction.

Other:

All Personal Tax Returns Must be Filed Electronically:

It is now mandatory for the vast majority of our clients to file their personal returns electronically. For those used to signing a printed, paper tax return, please note that you now just sign a one-page form authorizing Rutwind Brar LLP to file your return on your behalf, called the 'T183.' We ask that all clients sign and return the T183 as soon as possible so we can file your tax return.

Engagement Letter for Preparing Personal Tax Returns

Finally, please sign and include the T1 engagement letter with the material you send us. For simplicity, we ask that one person sign as the responsible person for the entire family. A copy of this letter can be found on our website.

Appendices enclosed:

- Appendix A: Rental Income and Expenses Worksheet
- Appendix B: Self-Employed Income and Expenses Summary
- Appendix C: Employment Expenses Summary.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 780-483-5490.

Yours truly,

Rutwind Brar LLP