

Income Tax

QUÉBEC EDITION



NICE

National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly
Initiative nationale pour le soin des personnes âgées

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What Is Income Tax?

- Income tax is money that you pay to the government from your earnings. Your employer deducts income tax from your pay and gives it to the government.
- The rate of tax you pay depends on how much money you make. The less income you make, the less income tax you pay the government.

Is All Income Taxed?

- Most income such as your employment earnings and pensions, investments (including RRSPs), Québec Pension Plan (QPP), Old Age Security (OAS) and Foreign Pension Plans are taxed.
- *Not all* money you receive is taxed. Government benefits such as the Goods & Services Tax (GST) Credit, gifts, Worker's Compensation, and Last-Resort Financial Assistance are not taxed.

Who Pays Income Taxes?

- Under the Canadian income tax system, individuals with Canadian residency pay income taxes.
- Newcomers to Canada gain residency for income tax purposes once they establish **residential ties** with Canada.

Who Pays Income Taxes? (continued)

- Some examples of residential ties include:
 - a. Having a home in Canada;
 - b. Having a spouse or common-law partner or dependants move to Canada to live with you;
 - c. Owning personal property in Canada, such as a car or furniture; and
 - d. Having social ties in Canada, such as membership in a Canadian recreational or religious group.
- Newcomers to Canada who have established residential ties with Canada may be:
 - a. Protected persons (refugees);
 - b. People who have received permanent resident status from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC);
 - c. People who have applied to CIC to be permanent residents; or
 - d. People who have approval-in-principle from CIC to stay in Canada.

Note: Many factors can be used to determine a person's residency status in Canada. For more information, contact the **Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)** at 1-800-267-5177 (toll-free in Canada and the United States). From other regions, please call 613-952-3741 (English) or 613-954-1368 (French). You can also refer to the *Income Tax Interpretation Bulletin, IT-221R3, Determination of an Individual's Residence Status*, available at: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tp/it221r3-consolid/it221r3-consolid-e.html>

Why You Should File An Income Tax Return

- If you owe tax, you must file a return.
- If you do not owe tax or you have no income, you should **still** file a return because you may receive government benefits or money back.
- If you paid too much tax, you will get a refund.
- You may get a GST/HST Credit for low and modest income individuals.
- You may get tax credits and family benefits from the province or territory where you live (see the *Accessing and Optimizing Pensions and Public Benefits* pocket tool).

For help preparing your income tax return:

Free Income Tax Clinics are set up at various community agencies from mid-February until the end of March.

- To qualify, your total household income must be below \$26,000 for a couple with \$2,000 added for each dependent child or below \$20,000 without dependents.
- Call The YWCA Montreal at (514) 866-9941, ext. 293
- Call the Women's Centre of Montreal at (514) 842-4780
- Call ACEF at (514) 257-6622

This is one of the series of Financial Literacy for Older Adults pocket tools. For more information about NICE tools or related training events, please visit

www.nicenet.ca

Disclaimer

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