



MARCH 2017 Newsletter

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It's tax season again!

Here we are again at the beginning of another tax season – how time flies! As usual, I'm looking forward to helping my clients get their taxes filed on time and as painlessly as possible for another year. The tax package already went out in early February, but if you missed it, you can get a copy by visiting the "Information for Clients" tab on my website at www.forgette.ca or email me at lynne@forgette.ca and I'll be happy to send out another copy to you. An eagle-eyed client of mine found a problem with one of the fillable boxes in the pdf form (for the Public Transit question), so if you're planning to fill in the form electronically, the updated version on my website fixes that up.

Filling in the tax package information will help the process to run much more smoothly, so thank you in advance to my clients for completing the documents – as usual, watch for a special reward in the checklist as a thank you! Remember to please be kind to your accountant and get your documents organized and dropped off as soon as you can! Call or email me with any questions at all – phone number is 613-271-0683.

A Note from Lynne



CRA is working on clearer tax correspondence...



CRA is working on improving the 130 million pieces of correspondence they send out every year, and making communication with taxpayers more clear. Effective February of 2017, CRA is providing enhanced Notices of Assessment to make your tax assessment information easier to read and understand. The new forms include an account summary to explain how you were assessed, and improvements to security by masking a portion of your social insurance number.

After your 2016 tax return is processed, it's important to watch for the Notice of Assessment from CRA and ensure you fully understand the information provided in it. Clients can always contact me for help if anything on the new forms still seems unclear after the changes.

Reminder about RRSP slips

To ensure your RRSP contributions get recorded in the proper year, please remember that contributions made in the first 60 days of 2017 must be filed with the current 2016 tax return, rather than being kept until the 2017 tax return gets filed next year. Remember also that RRSP fees (and TFSA fees) are not deductible.



Some CRA Filing Statistics

CRA reports that 57% of tax returns were e-filed last tax season, up 2% from the previous year. Another 28% were filed using Netfile, and only 15% were paper-filed. A total of 27.7 million personal income tax returns were filed between February 15, 2016 and August 1, 2016. Sixty-five percent of refunds were direct-deposited.

CRA Apps

CRA now offers three different mobile apps to help you out: “MyCRA” lets you securely view portions of your tax info; “MyBenefitsCRA” provides a quick view of benefit payments such as the Canada child benefit and “CRA Business Tax Reminders” lets you create custom alerts for key CRA due dates such as payroll remittances and HST instalments. You can sign up for any of these services by visiting CRA’s Mobile App webpage at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/mobileapps/>



And now for a break from taxes...



You are no doubt already aware of Canada 150 celebrations this year. I recently discovered that Ottawa has a great website set up with all the events planned for the year. You can visit the site at <http://www.ottawa2017.ca/events/signature-events/> to plan your celebrations. Personally, I’m keeping an eye out for “La Machine” – according to the website “astonishing creatures will be invading the nation’s capital” July 27 – 30. I’m also looking forward to trying out some of the “Ottawa Welcomes the World” events at Lansdowne Park.

Please remember that the information presented here is for educational purposes only, and it is not possible to include all situations, circumstances and exceptions – individual facts should always be discussed with a qualified professional.

Although I have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newsletter, I accept no liability for any errors or omissions.

Please call or email if you would like any further information or have any questions!

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