



OCTOBER 2018 Newsletter

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So thankful...

I normally send out this newsletter four times a year, and I apologize that didn't happen in 2018...but the past year was a bit more eventful than anticipated, so I hope you'll forgive me! As we approach Thanksgiving weekend, I thought it was appropriate to use the same heading above that I used in 2017 as I am still "So thankful..." for so many things.

The recent tornadoes that hit our region are a powerful reminder of how much we have to be grateful for, and I found them to be a sobering reminder of how precious the things are that we sometimes take for granted. If you or someone you know was affected, I would be happy to help however I can - whether helping with paperwork or just lending an ear, I'm here if I'm needed. My heart goes out to all those who were affected.

I also wanted to express the gratitude that I have to all the wonderful clients, colleagues, staff, family and friends that I am fortunate enough to know, and who supported me during my health challenges. I am now one year post cancer treatment point, and I feel absolutely fantastic! However, please note that I have reduced my working hours, and my office will remain closed on Fridays. So while I appreciate your referrals, and will consider each one carefully, I am limiting the number of new clients that I accept, so that I may focus on my existing clients and ensure their needs are best met. If you have any questions or need anything at all, please call or email the office – phone 613-271-0683 or email lynne@forgette.ca or sue@forgette.ca Thank you!

A Note from Lynne



CRA Scams



I know I often warn you about scams from fraudsters pretending to be CRA, but it's time for another reminder. If you are ever unsure about a phone call or email saying its from CRA, please CALL ME! I highly recommend reading this recent CBC news article for more info about the scams:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/cra-phone-tax-scam-marketplace-1.4830141>

Minimum Wage Changes

Labour Minister Laurie Scott recently announced that the planned increase for minimum wage on January 1, 2019 will not go ahead. The minimum wage is set to remain at \$ 14 per hour rather than increasing to \$ 15 per hour as expected by the previous Liberal government. Read Global's article here for info:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4488382/pc-government-ontario-minimum-wage/>

VEHICLE EXPENSES

A recent court case is a good reminder of the importance of keeping impeccable records when it comes to business use of your vehicle. A snowplowing company had estimated the business trips, rather than tracking accurately with mileage logs. The court determined that the amounts were not reasonable based on the fact that they were based on estimated distance, not actual distance, and therefore fully taxable to the recipients. My friends at Video Tax News have a summary of the case, and further links to more details, through this link:

https://members.videotax.com/shared_links/6870385719

I'd also like to take this opportunity to advise that CRA has introduced a special project which specifically targets vehicle expense claims made by corporations, particularly for taxation years ended in 2015. If you receive correspondence from CRA requesting details for claims made and would like assistance responding, please contact me by phone or email and remember time is of the essence for replying to them.

Donating Shares

If you were planning to make a cash donation to a charity this year, did you know you could donate shares instead? Donating shares to a qualified donee could eliminate any gains from the disposal of those shares. However, it usually takes longer to process this type of transaction than it does to make a cash donation, so don't leave it until December! CanadaHelps.org, an online donation platform, has more info: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/why-canadahelps/ways-to-give/benefits-of-donating-securities/>



Workplace Harassment

Many employers AND employees are unaware of the rights and duties that Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act sets out regarding protection from violence and harassment in the workplace. Workplaces employing more than five employees are required to have written policies. Learn more at:

<https://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/topics/workplaceviolence.php>

And now for a break from taxes...



Happy Thanksgiving!!! From my family to yours, I wish you a beautiful holiday filled with gratitude for all the blessings in our lives (and hopefully yummy pie for dessert!) Some of you may already know that I started yoga teacher training last fall and recently received my certification to teach (don't worry, I'll always be an accountant first!). In keeping with the gratitude sentiments of the season, and as a nod to my newfound zen calmness from yoga (but maybe still not every day yet ha!) I thought I'd share a lovely gratitude meditation from Davidji that you might enjoy - takes less than 20 minutes! Visit the YouTube video here: <https://youtu.be/fVzOvnikAi4>

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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