

February, 2018

Dear Client:

ARE YOU READY FOR TAX TIME?

The April 30, 2018 deadline to file your 2017 personal income tax return is quickly approaching. As a result of changes in tax laws and the ever-increasing complexity in preparing personal tax returns, please gather your required tax information (as outlined in the attached 2017 Personal Tax Checklist) and submit them to us no later than **Monday, April 2nd, 2018**.

Electronic Filing

Tax preparers must now electronically file tax returns (with limited exceptions). As a result, this year we will again be electronically filing (efiling) tax returns utilizing our state-of-the-art computer equipment. In addition to the mandatory requirement to efile, this process will help to ensure that your tax return is assessed as quickly and as accurately as possible. It eliminates the need to file a paper version of the return, as all necessary information is transmitted electronically. You only need to sign an authorization notice and engagement letter which we will provide to you (via private fax, email or in person). All slips pertaining to the tax return will be retained by us and if requested by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will be provided to them for their review. If you have any questions, please speak to your Lipton LLP advisor and he/she will discuss this further with you. If you prefer, you can also scan and email all of your tax filing materials to your Lipton representative and keep the original documents.

New for 2017 personal tax returns

1) Canada Caregiver Credit:

The Canada Caregiver Credit (CCC) consolidates the infirm dependant credit, the caregiver credit (for in-home care of a relative) and the family caregiver credit for 2017.

The CCC is available in respect of an individual's spouse or common-law partner, minor child or eligible relative who is dependent on the individual because of a mental or physical infirmity at any time in the year.

The CCC will be based on two amounts:

CCC Higher Amount:

A higher maximum amount of \$6,883 (in 2017) can be claimed by a caregiver in respect of each infirm dependant who is an eligible relative. This amount will be reduced dollar-for-dollar by the amount of the dependant's net income above \$16,163 (in 2017).

The dependant will not be required to live with the caregiver in order for the caregiver to claim the credit. However a credit will no longer be available in respect of a non-infirm individual over 65 years of age who resides with their adult child (caregiver).

CCC Lower Amount Plus Top-Up:

A lower maximum amount of \$2,150 (currently known as the family caregiver amount) for infirm dependants will remain as part of the following amounts:

- The maximum spouse or common-law partner amount;
- The maximum amount for an eligible dependant;
- The amount for infirm children under age 18 at the end of the tax year.

In cases where an individual claims an amount for an infirm spouse or common-law partner or an amount for an eligible dependant who is infirm, the individual must claim the CCC at the lower amount (maximum \$2,150 for 2017). Where this results in less tax relief than would be available if the CCC higher amount (maximum \$6,883 for 2017) were claimed instead, a top-up will be provided to offset this difference.

Note: the top-up does not apply with respect to an amount claimed for an eligible dependant who is age 18 or under at the end of the year.

The CCC amounts are consistent with the amounts that could have been claimed in respect of these dependants for 2017 under the current caregiver amount (for in-home care of a relative) and family caregiver amount, respectively.

The amounts and the net income threshold will be indexed to inflation after 2017.

2) Disability tax credit (DTC) certification:

Nurse practitioners across Canada can now certify the application form for the DTC.

3) Medical expense tax credit:

If you need medical intervention to conceive a child, you may be eligible to claim certain expenses even if you do not have a medical condition. These expenses are the same as those that would be generally allowed for individuals who have a medical condition. If you had fertility-related expenses for any of the 10 previous calendar years and you have not claimed them, you can request a change to your personal tax returns to claim these expenses.

4) Tuition, education and textbook credits:

As of January 1, 2017, the federal education and textbook credits were eliminated. However, you can still carry forward unused amounts from previous years. Also, you may now be able to claim the tuition amount for fees you paid to post-secondary educational institution for occupational skills courses, even if they are not at a post-secondary level.

5) Children's credits:

As of January 1, 2017, the children's arts tax credit and the children's fitness tax credit have been eliminated.

6) Public transit tax credit:

As of July 1, 2017, this credit was eliminated. For the 2017 tax year, the cost of eligible public transit expenses can be taken from January 1 to June 30, 2017.

7) Healthy Home Renovation Tax Credit:

Effective January 1, 2017, this tax credit has been eliminated.

Foreign Reporting Requirements

The government requires individuals to report their holdings of certain offshore (including U.S.) assets. Generally, this will apply to individuals who own offshore assets (other than personal use property) with a tax cost of more than \$100,000 Cdn at any time in the year. This information must be reported on your 2017 income tax return. There are substantial penalties for failing to disclose this information.

CRA allows a simplified reporting method for individuals who own foreign investments with a tax cost between \$100,000 and \$250,000 Cdn. The CRA requires taxpayers to indicate the type of foreign property held, the country to which the property relates and the income/loss and capital gain/loss from dispositions in the year.

Foreign investments having a tax cost of more than \$250,000 will require more detailed information. The CRA requires taxpayers to include the name of the bank/entity holding the foreign funds, identify the foreign country to which the property relates, the income/loss and capital gain/loss from the particular property and maximum cost or fair market value (depending on the location of the investments) during the year and the cost or market value amount at year end.

Furthermore, if you and anyone related to you own 10% or more of a foreign corporation, you must report ownership as well as any transfers made to or distributions received from certain foreign trusts in 2017 regardless of the amount.

Please inform us if these rules may apply to you.

How should you prepare?

1. Check that you have received all the information slips (T3, T4, T4A, T5, T4A(P), T4A(OAS), T4RRSP, T4RIF etc.) that you are expecting. It is important to note that the failure (even if accidental) to report an amount required to be included in income will result in an automatic penalty where there has been a previous failure to report an amount in a return of any of the three preceding taxation years. In some cases, a more severe penalty can be imposed. The CRA uses a computerized matching program to ensure that all tax slips issued are reported. Comparison of the 2017 slips to 2016 slips is an effective way to minimize the chance of any missing slips.
2. For stock market transactions during the year, including purchases and sales of bonds, income trusts and similar investments, make sure that you have the broker's slips available. Note that for sales of investments which were purchased in prior years, original cost and return of capital information is required. For all other capital transactions, please provide us with similar information.
3. Where you are required under your employment contract to pay travel expenses in the performance of your duties away from the employer's place of business, you may be able to deduct expenses against employment income (e.g. commission salesmen) or claim a HST rebate (discussed further below), please summarize the relevant expenses by category. If you can deduct any employment-related expenses or claim the HST rebate, ensure that you obtain a completed Form T2200 from your employer. Please retain all supporting receipts and your automobile mileage log book for future reference. The Canada Revenue Agency

has recently been actively reviewing these deductions where there is a shareholder /employee relationship with a corporation. Please contact your Lipton advisor to discuss any planning related to this deduction.

4. You must have appropriate receipts or other documentation to support various deductions and credits.

Deductions/credits for which receipts must be forwarded to us are:

- RRSP contributions
 - medical expenses
 - charitable donations or gifts (including donations of publicly traded securities)
 - political contributions
 - interest paid on student loans
 - disability tax credit (Form T2201)
 - child care expenses (see below)
 - tuition fees (see below)
 - union or professional dues
 - moving costs (including mortgage interest for up to three months for a vacant former home)
 - investment counsel fees (excluding RRSP or RRIF)
 - alimony or separation payments (see below)
 - interest expense (see below)
 - public transit credit (January 1 – June 30, 2017)
5. If you, or any of your dependants, are taking post-secondary school courses on occupational skills courses, be sure to obtain a completed Form T2202 (tuition fees) and/or Form TL11A if the student is attending a foreign university.

Eligible tuition fees include:

Amounts paid to an educational institution, professional association, provincial ministry or similar association to take an occupational, trade or professional examination:

- that must be taken to obtain professional status or to be licensed or certified to practice a profession or trade in Canada.
 - that include ancillary fees such as exam materials but not other costs such as travel, calculators or computers.
 - that do not include admission tests to enter a program of study.
 - that are exam fees in excess of \$100 (similar to other tuition claims).
6. For child care expenses, please provide us with information regarding amounts paid, the payee, the address, and if applicable, the payee's social insurance number. The maximum amounts that can be claimed are \$8,000 for children under age of seven, to \$5,000 for children aged seven through 16 and \$11,000 for children who are eligible for the Disability Tax credit.
 7. For alimony or separation payments, please provide us with a copy of the divorce or separation agreement or court order, and your spouse's/former spouse's name and social insurance number.

8. If you have incurred interest expense to earn income of any nature, please provide details. If possible, obtain from the lender(s) a letter setting out the date(s) and amount(s) of the original loan(s), the interest paid during 2017, the purpose of the loan(s) and the balance(s) outstanding at December 31, 2017.
9. If you had any investments in tax shelters, etc., please provide us with the relevant financial statements, income tax schedules and information slips (e.g. T5013, T101, T102).
10. If you lived in or maintained a residence for someone who was dependent on you by reason of mental or physical infirmity (except for a parent or grandparent whose age exceeds 65) or if you have a dependant with an impairment in physical or mental functions, the CCC may be available.
11. If you have disposed of any real property in 2017 (including your principal residence, cottage or a U.S. or other foreign property), please let us know and we can discuss the tax consequences
12. Tax instalments:
 - a) Total tax instalments paid on account of 2017.
 - b) The amount paid for your March, 2018 instalment.

13. Quebec:

Please forward correspondence received from Revenue Quebec (if any) to us including the “Authorization for an Accredited Tax Preparer to Download Your Fiscal Data” form.

Pension Splitting:

These rules allow for a Pensioner to transfer up to 50% of “eligible pension income” to his/her spouse or common-law partner. This rule can result in a reduction of overall taxes payable for the married/common-law couple. Our tax return software will automatically do this calculation and ensure that the lowest possible taxes are paid. A joint election will need to be signed by both parties.

CRA Online Mail:

The CRA is now providing an online mail service. You will receive an email notification when you have CRA correspondence in your online account. If you wish to register for this service, please provide us with your email address.

If you have registered for on-line mail, you may be able to receive an express Notice of Assessment which will be delivered directly into our certified tax software shortly after your return is electronically filed.

Direct Deposit:

The Government of Canada is switching to direct deposit for all payments that it issues. April 2018 is the government's target date for Canadians to enrol in direct deposit, those who are not enrolled by that date will continue to receive cheques.

2018 Instalments:

The Federal government mails notices in February, 2018 informing individuals of the exact amount of their instalment payments for March 15, 2018 and June 15, 2018. Notices will also be sent in August, 2018 for the instalments due on September 15, 2018 and December 15, 2018.

Any remaining 2018 tax liability will be due on April 30, 2019.

There are other methods to consider in determining the amount of instalment payments. We suggest that you contact us in order to determine which method is best for you.

HST Rebates:

You may qualify for a rebate of the HST you paid on certain business-related expenses if:

- You are an employee (e.g. earning commission income, salary, employed in forestry, the transportation industry or as a musician) whose employer is a HST registrant (i.e. the employer has a HST registration number and filed HST returns), or
- You are a member of a partnership that is a HST registrant, and you have filed an income tax return reporting your share of income from the partnership.

You will not qualify for a HST rebate if:

- Your employer was not a HST registrant.
- Your employer is a listed financial institution (e.g. a firm that was at any time during the year a bank, an investment dealer, a trust company, an insurance company, a credit union, or a corporation whose principal business is the lending of money).

If the HST rebate applies to you, please speak to us so that we can arrange to prepare and include the rebate form with your T1 return.

Documents Checklist

In order to further assist you, we are pleased to include a documents checklist for you to complete and return to us with your tax information.

U.S. Tax and Information Filing Requirements

U.S. persons (including citizens and green card holders), regardless of where they live, as well as certain Canadian residents who dispose of real property in the U.S. and who have U.S. based investments must file U.S. tax returns and possibly other tax information forms. The penalties for non-filing can be punitive. The IRS has implemented a voluntary disclosure program with respect to non-filing U.S. citizens residing in Canada. If you think this situation may apply to you, please call us to discuss.

Yours very truly,

Lipton LLP

LIPTON LLP - CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

2017 Personal Tax Checklist

To help you assemble your financial information for preparation of your income tax return, keep this checklist handy. The checklist should be completed and returned to us together with the financial information assembled.

(X)	IF APPLICABLE TO YOU	PROVIDE
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAST YEAR'S ASSESSMENT NOTICE	Provide a copy (all pages)
<input type="checkbox"/>	ANY REASSESSMENT NOTICE(S) RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR	Provide a copy (all pages)
<u>EMPLOYMENT INCOME</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular earnings	All T4's or pay slips
<input type="checkbox"/>	Odd jobs, tips	Pay slips, details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Director's fees	T4's or details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Profit sharing income	T4PS slip
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loans from employer	Full details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other employment benefits	Full details
<u>PENSION, RETIREMENT, ANNUITY INCOME</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Old Age Security	T4A(OAS) slip
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canada or Quebec Pension	T4A(P)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreign (eg. U.S. Social Security)	Details, foreign slips
<input type="checkbox"/>	Employment (including retiring allow.)	T4A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Registered Retirement Income Fund	T4RIF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal from a RRSP	T4RSP slips, details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Annuity Payments	Full details, information slips
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Details
<u>INVESTMENT INCOME</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interest - savings account	T5 slips or pass books
<input type="checkbox"/>	Term deposits or G.I.C.'s	T5 slips or details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mutual fund investment income	T3 slips or statements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dividends - Canadian corporations	T5 slips
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interest - Canada Savings Bonds	T5, T600 or T600C slips (Details if no slips - for accrual)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interest - joint account with spouse	Details of split
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interest - mortgage or other loans	Details, amortization schedule
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreign interest or dividends	Foreign slips or details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interest - Treasury bills	Full details of transactions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Royalty or other invest. income	Details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partnership income	T5013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	T5008 or other information
<u>INCOME FROM SELF EMPLOYMENT</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	General	Record of all revenues & expenses
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assets purchased, sold during year	Dates, descriptions, details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any partners	Name(s) and share(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Salary paid to spouse	Details of work done
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inventory	Value of closing inventory
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accounts receivable, payable	List of each
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any special elections in prior years	Details

2017 Personal Tax Checklist

(X) IF APPLICABLE TO YOU

PROVIDE

SALE / EXCHANGE OF INVESTMENTS

<input type="checkbox"/> Stocks, bonds, trust units	Transaction slips/details, broker statements (for any month with a transaction, plus for month of December), information circular (for takeovers, share exchanges, reorganizations, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Real estate and other properties	Sale documents, details of purchase
<input type="checkbox"/> Any properties gifted to others	Full details
<input type="checkbox"/> Elections in Prior Year(s)	Full details
<input type="checkbox"/> Prior year Reserves	Full details

RENTAL INCOME

<input type="checkbox"/> General	Details of all revenue & expenses
<input type="checkbox"/> New properties	Purchase agreement & details
<input type="checkbox"/> Rental of part of residence	Details of split
<input type="checkbox"/> Change of use of rental property	Date and details
<input type="checkbox"/> Sale of rental property	Sale documents and details of purchase

OTHER INCOME

<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Insurance Benefits	T4E slip
<input type="checkbox"/> WCB benefits	T4, T5007, details
<input type="checkbox"/> Social assistance payments	Full details, slips
<input type="checkbox"/> Alimony or child support received	Full details
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships, bursaries	Details, T4A slip(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Universal Child Care Benefit	RC62 slip
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	Full Details

EMPLOYMENT RELATED EXPENSES

<input type="checkbox"/> General - required by employer to pay certain expenses	Form T2200
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel/Auto	Records of expenses and calculation of business mileage
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving expenses	Details of charges
<input type="checkbox"/> Other expenses	Details of charges
<input type="checkbox"/> Transport employees	Form TL2
<input type="checkbox"/> Union or Association Dues	Official tax receipts

COMMISSION RELATED EXPENSES

<input type="checkbox"/> Travel/Auto	Record of expenses and calculation of business portion of use
<input type="checkbox"/> Sales expenses	Record of expenses
<input type="checkbox"/> Office in home	Form T2200 & details of area used and cost of home, including interest, taxes (Note: Mortgage interest is not deductible as an employment expense)

INVESTMENT EXPENSES

<input type="checkbox"/> Borrow money to earn invest. income	Record of amounts paid
<input type="checkbox"/> Borrowed on margin account (stocks)	Records from broker
<input type="checkbox"/> Accounting fees to record income	Details of charges
<input type="checkbox"/> Investment counsel and investment management fees	Details of charges
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax shelters	Purchase documents

2017 Personal Tax Checklist

(X) IF APPLICABLE TO YOU

PROVIDE

SALE OF PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE

_____ Sale of principal residence

Statement of adjustments for original purchase and disposition

ALL OTHER DEDUCTIONS AND CREDITS

_____ Alimony or separation allowance paid

Record of payment & details

_____ Tuition fees for self or dependant over \$100 paid (post-secondary or occupational)

Official tax receipt(s), professional exam fees

_____ Registered Retirement Savings Plan

Official tax receipt

_____ Stocks/bonds rolled over into RRSP

Official tax receipt, details

_____ Donations to registered charities

Official tax receipts

_____ Unused prior year donations

Full details

_____ Amounts paid for child care

Details of payments

_____ Medical Expenses for any 12 month period ended in the tax year including private insurance (i.e. Blue Cross, travel health ins.)

_____ premiums and amounts deducted from your pay cheque for same

Receipts, details, pharmacy records

_____ Political Contributions paid

Official tax receipts

_____ Loss on shares of or loss on loans to a private company

Full details

_____ Disability Credit

Form T2201 (first year)

_____ Incurred disability support costs

Full details, Form T929

_____ Contribute to support of relative

Full details

_____ Parent or parents (over 65) live with you

Full details

_____ Non-resident dependants supported

Full details

_____ Oil & Gas, Mining investments

Full details

_____ Canadian Feature Films, Videos

Full details

_____ Public transit passes (January 1 - June 30, 2017)

Receipts

_____ Adoption expenses

Full details

_____ Other, if not mentioned above

Full details

FOREIGN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS & MISCELLANEOUS

_____ Received any funds from a foreign trust after 1995, or have ever transferred or loaned property to a foreign trust

Full details - discuss situation

_____ Own over 1% of a foreign corporation or trust, and together with related parties own over 10%

Full details - discuss situation

_____ Owned assets outside Canada with a cost in excess of \$100,000 (Canadian funds) during year (excluding personal use assets)

Full details - discuss situation

_____ Became or ceased to be a resident of Canada during the year

Date of status change

_____ Paid installments of taxes

Record of amounts paid (T7DR)

_____ Dependant children

Provide full details - names, birthdays, details of income if any

_____ Marital status changed

Date and details. Note that you may be considered married if living common law.

_____ Spouse

if we are not preparing a tax return for your spouse, provide full details of spouse's income for the year, SIN, birthdate etc.