

February, 2020

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Dear Client:

## **ARE YOU READY FOR TAX TIME?**

The April 30, 2020 deadline to file your 2019 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 2019 Personal Tax Checklist) and submit them to us no later than **Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**.

### 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 2019 personal tax returns

#### 1) Enhanced Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan

Starting in 2019, the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and the Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) are being gradually enhanced. This means that if you contribute to either the CPP or the QPP, you will receive improved benefits in exchange for making higher contributions. You can claim a deduction for your enhanced contributions to the CPP or QPP.

#### 2) Canada Training Credit Limit

As of January 1, 2019, if you meet certain conditions, you will be able to accumulate \$250 per year, to a maximum over your lifetime of \$5,000, to be used in calculating your Canada Training Credit, a new refundable tax credit that will be available for 2020 and future years. Based on information from your return, the CRA will determine your Canada Training Credit Limit for the 2020 tax year and provide it to you on your Notice of Assessment for 2019. For 2020 and future years, you may be able to claim a Canada Training Credit equal to your Canada Training Credit Limit for the year or 50% of your eligible tuition and fees paid to an educational institution in Canada, whichever is less.

#### 3) Canada Workers Benefit

For 2019, the Canada workers benefit (CWB) replaces and strengthens the working income tax benefit (WITB). The CWB is an enhanced, more accessible, refundable tax credit.

4) Home Buyers' Plan

The maximum amount you can withdraw from your registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) under the Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) increased from \$25,000 to \$35,000 for withdrawals made after March 19, 2019. If you are not considered a first-time home buyer for the purposes of the HBP, and you experience a breakdown in your marriage or common-law partnership, you may be able to participate in the HBP after 2019 under certain conditions.

5) Medical Expenses Tax Credit

Certain cannabis products purchased for a patient for medical purposes will be considered eligible medical expenses for the medical expense tax credit, once they become permitted for legal sale under the Cannabis Act.

6) Donations and gifts (line 34900 of the return)

For donations made after March 18, 2019, in order to qualify for the enhanced tax incentives for donations of cultural property, the property no longer needs to be of national importance.

7) Zero-emission vehicles

If you are self-employed or claiming employment expenses, you may be able to claim capital cost allowance on zero-emission vehicles. Starting in 2019, there is a temporary enhanced first-year capital cost allowance of 100% for eligible zero-emission vehicles. Eligible vehicles must be acquired after March 18, 2019, and become available for use before 2024. The enhanced allowance decreases if the vehicle becomes available for use after 2023 and before 2028.

8) Investment tax credit (line 41200)

Eligibility for the mineral exploration tax credit for an individual (other than a trust) has been extended to flow-through share agreements entered into before April 2024

2019 personal tax returns

1) Canada Caregiver Credit:

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 \$7,140 (in 2019) 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 \$12,069 (in 2019).

The dependant will not be required to live with the caregiver in order for the caregiver to claim the credit. However a credit is not 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 \$2,230 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 \$2,230 for 2019). Where this results in less tax relief than would be available if the CCC higher amount (maximum \$7,140 for 2019) 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 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:

- i. 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. You can 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 was eliminated.

#### 6) Public transit tax credit:

As of July 1, 2017, this credit was 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 2019 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 2019 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 2019 slips to 2018 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)

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 2019, the purpose of the loan(s) and the balance(s) outstanding at December 31, 2019.
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 2019 (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 2019.
  - b) The amount paid for your March, 2020 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.

#### 2020 Instalments:

The Federal government mails notices in February, 2020 informing individuals of the exact amount of their instalment payments for March 15, 2020 and June 15, 2020. Notices will also be sent in August, 2020 for the instalments due on September 15, 2020 and December 15, 2020.

Any remaining 2020 tax liability will be due on April 30, 2021.

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:

- J 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
- J 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:

- J Your employer was not a HST registrant.
- J 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*

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

# 2019 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)
<b><u>EMPLOYMENT INCOME</u></b>		
<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
<b><u>PENSION, RETIREMENT, ANNUITY INCOME</u></b>		
<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
<b><u>INVESTMENT INCOME</u></b>		
<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
<b><u>INCOME FROM SELF EMPLOYMENT</u></b>		
<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



# 2019 Personal Tax Checklist

**( X ) IF APPLICABLE TO YOU**

**PROVIDE**

## SALE / EXCHANGE OF INVESTMENTS

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

<p>_____ General</p> <p>_____ New properties</p> <p>_____ Rental of part of residence</p> <p>_____ Change of use of rental property</p> <p>_____ Sale of rental property</p>	<p>Details of all revenue &amp; expenses</p> <p>Purchase agreement &amp; details</p> <p>Details of split</p> <p>Date and details</p> <p>Sale documents and details of purchase</p>
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## OTHER INCOME

<p>_____ Employment Insurance Benefits</p> <p>_____ WCB benefits</p> <p>_____ Social assistance payments</p> <p>_____ Alimony or child support received</p> <p>_____ Scholarships, bursaries</p> <p>_____ Universal Child Care Benefit</p> <p>_____ Other</p>	<p>T4E slip</p> <p>T4, T5007, details</p> <p>Full details, slips</p> <p>Full details</p> <p>Details, T4A slip(s)</p> <p>RC62 slip</p> <p>Full Details</p>
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## EMPLOYMENT RELATED EXPENSES

<p>_____ General - required by employer to pay certain expenses</p> <p>_____ Travel/Auto</p> <p>_____ Moving expenses</p> <p>_____ Other expenses</p> <p>_____ Transport employees</p> <p>_____ Union or Association Dues</p>	<p>Form T2200</p> <p>Records of expenses and calculation of business mileage</p> <p>Details of charges</p> <p>Details of charges</p> <p>Form TL2</p> <p>Official tax receipts</p>
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## COMMISSION RELATED EXPENSES

<p>_____ Travel/Auto</p> <p>_____ Sales expenses</p> <p>_____ Office in home</p>	<p>Record of expenses and calculation of business portion of use</p> <p>Record of expenses</p> <p>Form T2200 &amp; details of area used and cost of home, including interest, taxes (Note: Mortgage interest is not deductible as an employment expense)</p>
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## INVESTMENT EXPENSES

<p>_____ Borrow money to earn invest. income</p> <p>_____ Borrowed on margin account (stocks)</p> <p>_____ Accounting fees to record income</p> <p>_____ Investment counsel and investment management fees</p> <p>_____ Tax shelters</p>	<p>Record of amounts paid</p> <p>Records from broker</p> <p>Details of charges</p> <p>Details of charges</p> <p>Purchase documents</p>
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# 2019 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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.