

Small Business Information Seminar

Module I Government Services





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Introduction

This module is part of a package we designed for people who have just started a small business or who are planning to start such a business.

The general information in this module covers a range of business situations, including how to plan for taxes, keep records, and make payments. It also gives you an overview of our roles and responsibilities, and it outlines some of the services we offer, as well as those of other government organizations.

If you would like more information, visit our Web site at http://www.cra.gc.ca, or call our Business Enquiries at 1-800-959-5525, or contact your tax services office. You can find the address and telephone numbers for your tax services office at http://www.cra.gc.ca/tso and in the government section of your telephone book.

Many of our publications are available on our Web site. You will find on page 14 a list of frequently used forms and guides for small businesses. You can also get copies of the guides and forms mentioned in this publication by calling our Forms Call Centre at 1-800-959-2221.

Canada Revenue Agency – Roles and responsibilities

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is the federal agency responsible for:

- administering Canada's tax legislation, trade policies, and trade agreements;
- managing various tax credit programs and collecting federal, provincial, and territorial individual income taxes (except in Quebec);
- administering federal and provincial corporate income taxes for all provinces and territories except Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec;
- administering the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) (except in Quebec), Canada Pension Plan contributions, Employment Insurance premiums, and excise duties and excise taxes on gasoline, alcohol, and tobacco products;
- maintaining public confidence in the tax system;
- promoting and facilitating voluntary compliance, as well as the self-assessment of duties and taxes; and
- discouraging tax evasion.

The legislative authority for these responsibilities are identified in the:

- *Income Tax Act* (Canada)
- *Income Tax Act* (provincial and territorial)
- Excise Tax Act
- Excise Act

Although we administer the tax laws that Parliament has passed, the Department of Finance Canada plans the Government of Canada's fiscal and tax policy.

When the Minister of Finance introduces a new budget, it includes proposed amendments to existing legislation. The amendments become law after Parliament debates, approves, and gives them Royal Assent. The Department of Finance Canada then issues budget documents to explain the reasons behind the changes to the legislation.

Canada Revenue Agency – Services

The CRA provides a wide range of services to the Canadian public. The following sections summarize the types of services that are available.

Human Resources Centres of Canada

(formerly the Government of Canada Info Centres)

We work with other federal agencies and departments to serve Canadians in smaller communities by offering a variety of government services in single locations called Human Resources Centres of Canada (HRCC). Visit their Web site at www.hrsdc.gc.ca for the office nearest you.

Canada Business Service Centres

These centres provide businesses with access to information about the programs and services of various federal departments and agencies, including the CRA, Industry Canada, and economic development agencies such as the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Western Economic Diversification Canada, and the Federal Office of Regional Development (Quebec).

Other partners include provincial and non-government agencies.

At the Canada Site, www.canada.gc.ca you can find a list of links to the Web sites of Government of Canada departments, agencies, and Crown corporations. You can also find links to Web sites maintained by organizations for which federal departments and agencies are responsible.

There are 12 Canada Business Service Centres operating across the country in:

St. John's Charlottetown Halifax Fredericton Montreal Toronto Winnipeg Saskatoon Edmonton Whitehorse Yellowknife

Vancouver

Tax Services Offices and Tax Centres

Tax Services Offices are your main points of contact with us.

Our Web site provides you with the address, telephone number, counter service hours, and fax number of a Tax Services Office or Tax Centre. For information visit our Web site at www.cra.gc.ca/tso.

Tax Services Offices provide Business Number registration services. Most of them also have agents who answer general questions on the telephone and who provide information on the status of refunds, GST/HST accounts, and assessment and reassessment notices.

Seasonal tax assistance centres also operate in various communities across the country during the income tax filing season. They are set up in convenient locations such as shopping malls and public buildings to supplement the service provided by Tax Services Offices. Visit our Web site at www.cra.gc.ca for the office nearest you.

Our Tax Centres process returns and make sure clients get the right amount of benefit payment at the right time.

Our telephone service operates year-round, with agent-assisted service available Monday to Friday between 8:15 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Automated service is available the rest of the time. We have included a list of frequently used Web sites for small businesses. This list is located on page 15, and should help you navigate through our Web site.

Client information

The CRA takes the privacy and confidentiality of client information very seriously. When calling Business Enquiries, clients are asked to answer personal and account-specific questions to confirm their authority to discuss business account matters with the CRA. Client account information is available only to those who are authorized to access the account.

Business Number (BN)

Under our BN program, your business can apply for a BN—a unique number that you can use for all of your business accounts with us. You can learn how to register for a BN at www.cra.gc.ca/bn.

Publications

We issue a wide variety of general and technical publications designed to help clients understand the tax system. They are published in both official languages and are available on our Web site at www.cra.gc.ca/forms or by calling our Forms Call Centre at 1-800-959-2221.

The following are some of the types of publications available:

■ Income tax guides – The guide that accompanies each income tax return is an important source of information. We also publish other guides to meet the needs of specific groups of clients. These include the T4002, Business and Professional Income guide, the T4004, Fishing Income guide, and the T4003, Farming Income guide.

- GST/HST guides To help businesses and organizations comply with GST/HST, we have developed a range of guides. Some of them are general in scope, some are for specific types of businesses and organizations, and some are for completing different GST/HST returns and rebate applications. For more information, or to get copies of GST/HST publications, forms, and applications, contact your Tax Services Office. If you are a resident of Quebec, contact an office of Revenu Québec.
- Guide for Canadian Small Businesses (RC4070) This guide introduces you to programs and gives an overview of your obligations and entitlements under the laws we administer. The guide will explain how to plan for taxes, keep records, and make and report payments.

Advance Income Tax Rulings and Interpretations

An advance income tax ruling is a written statement to a client from the Income Tax Rulings Directorate that states how the CRA will interpret and apply Canadian Income Tax law to transactions the client is considering.

GST/HST Rulings and Interpretations

You can ask for a written ruling or interpretation on how the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) applies to your operations or transactions. We will provide guidance and as much certainty as possible about how GST/HST applies and on the consequences of your transactions or proposed transactions.

If you require general information about GST/HST, contact our Business Enquiries at **1-800-959-5525**.

We provide our GST/HST rulings and interpretations service from rulings centres across Canada (except in Quebec). You can contact us at **1-800-959-8287**. For service in Quebec, contact Revenu Québec at **1-800-567-4692**.

Bilingual service

In every office across Canada, we offer our services in both English and French. All publications and forms are also available in both official languages.

For service in English, call **1-800-959-2221**. For service in French, call **1-800-959-3376**.

Help for clients with a hearing or visual disability

Clients with a hearing disability who have access to a teletypewriter (TTY) can get income tax information and help by calling our bilingual enquiry service at **1-800-665-0354**.

The service is available weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., local time, with extended hours offered during the income tax filing season.

Visually impaired persons can get our publications in Braille, large print, or e-text (computer diskette), or on audiocassette by visiting our Web site at www.cra.gc.ca/alternate or by calling 1-800-267-1267 weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Seminars, trade shows, and workshops

To help Small Business clients understand their rights and obligations under existing and frequently changing legislation, we offer the following services:

Seminars – These cover a variety of topics, from general to complex matters. We give seminars on request and target them to meet the needs or interests of the audience. (This module is part of our Small Business Information Seminar.)

Trade shows – These are one-and two-day events sponsored by the private sector, where we present information on our services.

Workshops – These are one-and two-day events where we present, instruct, or walk through examples of how to complete various forms and schedules.

Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Investment Tax Credit

We have set up a service to address the needs of individuals and businesses that have claimed the SR&ED investment tax credit. We regularly conduct public information sessions to explain the meaning of SR&ED, describe eligible activities, explain what expenditures qualify for the credit, and describe the documentation required for a claim.

You can get information about these sessions at **www.cra.gc.ca/sred** or by calling the General Enquiries at **1-800-959-5525**.

Consultation

The Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC) is one of several committees formed by the federal government to provide a forum for representatives of small business to communicate with us at the CRA. Members include those who are actively engaged in the operation of a small business as well as members who are well connected to the small business community.

The SBAC meets with the CRA at least twice a year to improve communication between CRA and the small business community to simplify CRA processes and improve services.

For more information on the SBAC visit our Web site at **www.cra.gc.ca/sbac**.

Electronic services for businesses

Businesses can make electronic payments to us through their financial institution.

Businesses that meet certain criteria can use our T4 Internet filing service from our Web site at www.cra.gc.ca/t4internet to file their T4 information returns.

We accept cancellations and amendments in electronic format for information slips.

GST/HST NETFILE and GST/HST TELEFILE are fast, free, and easy-to-use filing options that cut down processing time, eliminate the need to mail a paper return, and speed up refunds.

Businesses can report nil payroll deductions by telephone using TeleReply.

Corporations that meet certain criteria can use our Corporation Internet Filing service to file their corporation income tax returns.

Our Online requests service lets business clients ask electronically for certain financial and non-financial actions to be processed on their account.

For Internet information, see our Web site at www.cra.gc.ca/gsthst-netfile.

If you need help using GST/HST NETFILE, GST/HST TELEFILE or T4/T1204 Internet filing contact our e-service Helpdesk at 1-877-322-7849 and for Teletypewriter (TTY) contact us at 1-888-768-0951.

Note

The e-service Helpdesk is not available on weekends and statutory or civic holidays.

E-service Helpdesk hours of service		
Time zone	Monday to Friday	
Pacific time	5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.	
Mountain time	6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	
Central time	7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.	
Eastern time	8:00 a.m. to midnight.	
Atlantic time	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.	
Newfoundland time	9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	
Outside Canada and the U.S. (Central time) 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.		

Other government services

When setting up a business or professional practice, you should be aware of the municipal, provincial, territorial, and federal laws and regulations that affect you. You should also be aware of the government agencies that are available to provide you with financial and other help.

Many requirements for licences are handled at the municipal or provincial level. The particular agency involved may vary from city to city and province to province.

The Canada Site at **www.canada.gc.ca** gives you quick and easy access to all government departments and agencies. This site also provides links that have details of the structure and functions of the Government of Canada.

You can contact the chamber of commerce and the board of trade in your city using the Canada Site.

Below is a list of the three levels of government and their areas of responsibility for laws and regulations.

Municipal government

- zoning and bylaw regulations
- business permits
- municipal property taxes

Provincial or Territorial government

- provincial or territorial business licences
- registration of business names
- retail sales tax
- provincial or territorial income tax
- minimum wage laws
- workers' compensation plans
- provincial or territorial incorporation laws

Federal government

- federal income tax
- goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST)
- excise tax
- special assessments (countervailing and anti-dumping duties)
- patents and trademarks
- import and export permits
- other import certificates

There are a number of government agencies available to help you, including:

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada This department provides farmers with subsidies, adjustment support programs, employment programs, credit, crop protection, and research and development information.
- Canadian Dairy Commission The Commission provides milk and cream producers with an opportunity to get a fair return for their labour and investment.
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency This agency provides a large number of services such as health inspections and certificates for food, animals, and plant commodities.
- Industry Canada This department works with businesses to help increase the competitiveness of Canadian companies by recognizing the central role of technology. It helps investors identify investment opportunities and partners, and gives them timely information on, and contacts in, Canadian industry and commerce.

The network of Canada Business Service Centres provides information and referrals on government services, programs, and regulations to small-business owners and start-up entrepreneurs.

- Human Resources and Skills
 Development Canada (formerly Human
 Resources Development Canada) This
 department offers programs and services to
 those starting or operating a business in
 Canada.
- Social Development Canada (formerly under Human Resources Development Canada) This department provide policies, services, and programs for Canadians, including income security programs such as the Canada Pension Plan.
- Statistics Canada Statistics Canada collects, compiles, and publishes statistical data relating to a wide variety of economic and social activities in Canada. Its publications include *Small Business Profiles* and other information of interest to small business entrepreneurs.
- **Health Canada** This department regulates the commercial importing of certain food, drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, and radiation-emitting devices.

- Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) This is Canada's small business bank. The BDC offers financial services, consulting services, subordinate financing, and venture capital. It focuses on the emerging and exporting sectors of the economy. The BDC's services are available in both official languages at 1-877-232-2269.
- Canadian Wildlife Service An agency of Environment Canada, which is responsible for enforcing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna. Certain birds, animals, animal parts, plants, and plant products are either prohibited or restricted in Canada. Authorized imports or exports have to be accompanied by a permit.
- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) This agency's Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Information Centre can help you access useful tools and resources for importers and exporters.

Many similar agencies designated to help industry, trade, and commerce are available at the provincial, territorial and municipal levels. For information on these agencies and contacts, visit **www.canada.gc.ca** or check the government section of your telephone directory.

Web site addresses and telephone numbers for CRA services		
Business Enquiries and registrations	www.cra.gc.ca/tax/business/menu-e.html	English: 1-800-959-5525 French: 1-800-959-7775
Tax Services Office and Tax Centres	http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/contact/tso-e.html	
T1 TELEFILE T1 NETFILE	www.cra.gc.ca/eservices/tax/individuals/menu-e.html	English: 1-800-714-7257 French: 1-800-714-7258
		Outside Canada and the U.S.: English: (204) 984-0120 (call collect) French: (204) 984-0191 (call collect)
Address Changes Online	www.cra.gc.ca/tax/business/menu-e.html	English: 1-800-714-7257 French: 1-800-714-7258
T4 Internet filing	www.cra.gc.ca/eservices/tax/business/menu-e.html	English: 1-877-322-7849 French: 1-877-322-7852
Corporation Internet filing	www.cra.gc.ca/eservices/tax/business/corpnet/ menu-e.html	English: 1-800-959-2803 French: 1-800-959-2804
Excise and Other Levies Unit	www.cra.gc.ca/tax/technical/exciseduty-e.html	1-877-432-5472 (bilingual)
Forms and publications	www.cra.gc.ca/formspubs/	English: 1-800-959-2221 French: 1-800-959-3376
Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program	www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram/	1-866-367-8506 (bilingual)
Direct Deposit for new GST/HST registrants	www.cra.gc.ca/E/pbg/gf/gst469/README.html	
GST/HST TELEFILE/NETFILE	www.cra.gc.ca/eservices/tax/business/gsthst-telefile/ menu-e.html	English: 1-877-322-7849 French: 1-877-322-7852
GST/HST Domestic Rebate Program	www.cra.gc.ca/tax/business/topics/gsthst/rebates/ menu-e.html	Outside Canada: (902) 432-5604 In Canada: 1-800-565-9353
GST Visitor Rebate Program	www.cra.gc.ca/tax/nonresidents/visitors/tax-e.html	Outside Canada: (902) 432-5608 In Canada: 1-800-668-4748
GST/HST Rulings regional offices	www.cra.gc.ca/tax/business/topics/gsthst/ rulings-e.html	English: 1-800-959-8287 French: 1-800-959-8296
Individual income tax enquiries	www.cra.gc.ca/menu-e.html	English: 1-800-959-8281 French: 1-800-959-7383
International Tax Services Office	www.cra.gc.ca/contact/international-e.html	Calls from Canada and the U.S.: 1-800-267-5177 Calls from outside Canada and the U.S.: English: (613) 952-3741 French: (613) 954-1368
National Collections Call Centre		English: 1-888-863-8657 French: 1-888 863-8661
Refunds – T1	www.cra.gc.ca/tax/individuals/topics/income-tax/ refunds/process-e.html	English: 1-800-959-1956 French: 1-800-959-1958
Information for persons with a visual disability	www.cra.gc.ca/formspubs/help/about_multiple-e.html	1-800-267-1267 (bilingual)
Information for persons with a hearing disability	www.cra.gc.ca/formspubs/help/about_multiple-e.html	1-800-665-0354 (bilingual)

Federal Web site addresses and telephone numbers outside of the CRA			
Department of Finance Canada – Budget information line	www.fin.gc.ca/fin-eng.html	Toll free: 1-877-328-3438 TTY service: 1-800-465-7735	
Department of Justice Canada	www.canada.justice.gc.ca	1-800-267-7777	
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)	http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml		
Social Development Canada (SDC)	www.sdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml		
Employment Insurance and Social Insurance Number (SIN)	http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/ei/contact/contact_us.shtml	English: 1-800-206-7218 French: 1-800-808-6352	
Business Development Bank of Canada	http://www.bdc.ca/en/home.htm	1-877-232-2269	
Bank of Canada	www.bankofcanada.ca	1-800-303-1282	
O-CANADA for information on other programs and services	www.canada.gc.ca/main_e.html	Bilingual service for calls from Canada and the U.S.: 1-800-622-6232	

Provincial and territorial Web site addresses and telephone numbers		
Prince Edward Island	General Enquiries P.E.I. Agricultural Insurance Corporation	(902) 368-4000 (902) 368-4842
Nova Scotia	Public Enquiries WCB	1-800-670-4357 1-877-211-9267
New Brunswick	Service New Brunswick: SNB Online Out of province www.snb.ca	1-888-762-8600 (506) 684-7901
Newfoundland and Labrador	General Enquiries	(709) 729-2300
	Business Service Network www.gov.nl.ca/business/	1-800-688-1010
Quebec	Communication Québec La Financière agricole du Québec Revenu Québec (GST referrals) Quebec deductions at source	1-800-363-1363 1-800-749-3646 1-800-567-4692 1-888-413-2277
Ontario	Access Ontario Ontario Business Connects Helpline Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/index.html	1-800-268-8758 1-800-565-1921 1-877-838-5144
Manitoba	Citizen's Inquiry Service	1-800-282-8060
Saskatchewan	General Enquiries	1-800-667-6102
Alberta	Agriculture Financial Services Corporation http://www.afsc.ca	1-877-744-7900
	General Enquiries: Anywhere within Alberta All other calls	310-0000 (780) 427-2711
British Columbia	General Enquiries WCB www.worksafebc.com/ Ministry of Provincial Revenue One Stop Business Services: www.onestopbc.ca	1-800-663-7867 1-888-388-4440 1-877-922-2768 1-877-822-6727
Northwest Territories	Department of the Executive	(867) 669-2301
Yukon Territory	General Enquiries	(867) 667-5811
Nunavut	General Enquiries	(867) 979-5822

List of forms and guides for small businesses

Business Number

RC1 Request for a Business Number (BN)

RC2 The Business Number and Your Revenue Canada Accounts

General Information for GST/HST Registrants

RC59 Business Consent Form

RC145 Request to Close Business Number Accounts (BN)

GST/HST

GST176 Application for Visitor Tax Refund
GST370 Employee and Partner GST/HST Rebate Application
GST44 Election Concerning the Acquisition of a Business or Part of a Business
GST469 Direct Deposit Request (Non-Personalized)
GST495 Rebate Application for Provincial Part of Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)
GST62-2 Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) Return (Non-personalized)

Payroll

RC4022

CPT1 Request for a Ruling as to the Status of a Worker under the Canada Pension Plan or Employment

Insurance Act

TD1 Personal Tax Credits Return

TD1PE Prince Edward Island Personal Tax Credit Return

T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid T4SUM Summary of Remuneration Paid

T4A Statement of Pension, Retirement, Annuity and Other Income Summary of Pension, Retirement, Annuity and Other Income

T4F Statement of Fishing Income T4FSUM Summary of Fishing Income RC4110 Employee or Self – Employed

RC4120 Employers' Guide – Filing the T4 Slip and Summary Form

RC4157 Deducting Income Tax on Pension and Other Income, and Filing the T4A Slip and Summary Form

RC4163 Employers' Guide – Remitting Payroll Deductions

RC4200 Employers' Guide – Filing the T4F Slip and Summary Form T4001 Employers' Guide – Payroll Deductions – Basic Information

T4005 Fishers and Employment Insurance

T4032 Payroll Deductions Tables

T4130 Employers' Guide – Taxable Benefits

T4143 Tables on Diskette

Small Business

T400A Objection – Income Tax Act
T4002 Business and Professional Income

T4003 Farming Income T4004 Fishing Income

RC4070 Guide for Canadian Small Businesses P134 Using Your Home for Day care

List of frequently used Web sites for small businesses

Topic	Web site	
Main page for business	www.cra.gc.ca/business	
Business account registration	www.cra.gc.ca/bn	
Conducting business on the Internet	www.cra.gc.ca/ecomm	
Contact us	www.cra.gc.ca/contact	
Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program	www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram	
Contract payment reporting	www.cra.gc.ca/contract	
Corporate income tax	www.cra.gc.ca/t2return	
Corporation Internet filing	www.cra.gc.ca/corporation-internet	
Online Requests for Business	www.cra.gc.ca/eservices	
Direct deposit – Business	www.cra.gc.ca/dd-bus	
Electronic payments	www.cra.gc.ca/electronicpayments	
Electronic mailing lists	www.arc.gc.ca/lists	
Events – Outreach	www.cra.gc.ca/events	
Fairness and client rights – Overview	www.cra.gc.ca/fairness	
FAQs available on the CRA Web site	www.cra.gc.ca/faqs	
Public holidays	www.cra.gc.ca/tax/holidays/menu-e.html	
File on magnetic media	www.cra.gc.ca/magmedia	
Forms and publications	www.cra-arc.gc.ca/forms	
Forms and publications – Online order forms	www.cra.gc.ca/orderforms	
GST/HST electronic filing and remitting	www.cra.gc.ca/gsthst-edi	
GST/HST NETFILE	www.cra.gc.ca/gsthst-netfile	
GST/HST News	www.cra.gc.ca/gsthstnews	
GST/HST TELEFILE	www.cra.gc.ca/gsthst-telefile	
T4 Internet filing	www.cra-arc.gc.ca/t4internet	
How to file a T4 information return	www.cra.gc.ca/slips	
Information for Aboriginal people	www.cra.gc.ca/aboriginalpeoples	
Stock option – Taxable benefit	www.cra.gc.ca/stockoptions	
Tables on Diskette (TOD)	www.cra.gc.ca/tod	
The CRA warns Canadians against tax "myths"	www.cra.gc.ca/myths	
Tax Services Offices and Taxation Centres	www.cra.gc.ca/tso	
Visitor Rebate Program	www.cra.gc.ca/visitors	
Payroll	www.cra.gc.ca/payroll	
Prescribed interest rates	www.cra.gc.ca/tax/faq/interest_rates	