



# THE Tax Tipper

April 1, 2012

We take your taxes personally!

Issue 31

## Inside

What's Happening	2
Just Asking ... Just Answering	3
Did You Know?	3
It's a Photo Finish	4

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### Our Readers Respond

Wow! PTC Canada is amazing—and here I was worried. Thank you so much for all your help, Neel. You really made it easy for me!

Cedric Truchon  
 Calgary, Alberta

Check out our [testimonials page](#) and [media room](#).

Need tax help right away?

[Click here](#) to get started now!

We [welcome your comments](#) on the **Tax Tipper!**

Dear Clients and Friends,

Don't you just love it when spring finally arrives? While it's the height of my busy season, it's refreshing to know that warmer days are ahead and the cold ones are behind—at least for a few months. The bonus of longer days is much welcomed after those short, 8-hour sunshine days of December and January. Spring is a time when sleep is rare for me, unless I conk out from exhaustion. However, recent tax seasons have been relatively smooth thanks to the internet, faxes and other ways taxpayers take advantage of no longer having to meet in person.

Over 80% of our business is conducted this way, and the trend points to the 100% mark. That may sound optimistic but technology has made this very possible. I realized years ago as a younger entrepreneur that people are way too busy and have little interest in taxes. That's why our webpage [www.ptccanada.com](http://www.ptccanada.com) is intuitively designed to make the tax preparation experience as easy as possible. Looking back 14 years to 1998 when I started the business, the old fashioned way of meeting and doing things manually on paper seems antiquated, with the options a client has now.

Many clients who come on board are not only impressed with the easy options available but actually wonder why they didn't choose this method earlier. Whether you're filing a simple annual return or you are several years behind with many

complexities, the free [easy access tools](#) PTC Canada offers make it easy for a novice to get started. Further, we never ask for personal information unless the web surfer decides to proceed. Many colleagues are envious of the thousands of hits the website gets every month, and have asked why I don't solicit people's contact information. Simply put, it's not my style, and the folks who choose to engage our services do so because they want to. Personally, I've always hated pesky sales people. In fact I don't respect people who bug others for business and can't take a hint. Be assured of one thing: clients at PTC Canada do business with us of their own free will. They have made an intelligent decision that they found the right service for their needs, sometimes after a long search.

Because our specialty is late filers and the self-employed, PTC Canada is not the best choice for everyone in the tax market. But many use us because the service is easy to access, and that's a wonderful compliment. We'll continue to service a variety of clients as long as they choose to do business with us.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a safe and blessed Easter holiday, wherever you may spend it. Enjoy the April **Tax Tipper!**

Neel Roberts  
 President and Founder

# What's Happening

## 2012 Federal Budget Is Out

A few days ago, Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty tabled the latest Federal Budget. More about “prosperity than austerity,” check out our [March 29, 2012, bulletin](#) for details.



## Revamped CRA Website for Businesses

For those who are self-employed or run a business, CRA has added more features and made current ones more accessible. Whether you are checking the status of your corporate return, filing your GST or authorizing a representative, the [Business Webpage](#) has something for everybody in the Canadian business world. For further information, contact the business line at 1-800-959-5525.



## Beware of Fraud, As There Is Lots Around

No matter how protected your computer settings are or how good your security features are, the bad guys are always trying new strategies to get your money, information and more. Recently, CRA sent out a [bulletin about common frauds using their name](#). For example, CRA currently does not use ordinary email or texting to pass on your confidential information. If you suspect a scam, report it immediately to the [fraud prevention department](#) at Tel 1-866-809-6841 or Fax 1-888-724-4829 (toll free).



## Need to Simplify Your Tax Receipts? Get the *Tax Organizer* Today!

Wouldn't it be nice to just deposit all your receipts in a slot and worry about the rest later? Check out the [Tax Organizer](#)! With categories already laid out, all you have to do is drop and go. Perfect for those who hate bookkeeping but want a fighting chance when tax season rolls around. Prices from \$6.99 include taxes and shipping. And there's a bonus! Just mention this ad and Web Code #EFA2527 for a 15% discount. Simply call 1-905-542-TAXX (8299) to order yours today.



## New Credits and Benefits for Your 2011 Personal Taxes

Every year there are several hundred changes and/or additions to the tax code. Most don't affect the average filer directly or immediately, but CRA recently listed the [highlights of changes and benefits](#) that filers may be interested in. For further information, contact the tax line at 1-800-959-8281.



## 2011 Tax Filing Deadline at the End of April!

The deadline for most personal returns is now 29 days away. Waiting until the last minute to get your taxes done is never a good idea, especially if you need them assessed soon. Once you're ready to file your 2011 return, make arrangements TODAY rather than on April 29. I am jammed to the rafters with appointments, and you may have to wait weeks before getting in. Take advantage of our email, fax, phone or mail service. The days of office locations and 9–5 hours are becoming a thing of the past, and regrettably businesses stuck in yesterday's ways will get left there. Most clients are demanding more options, and—no surprise—appointments are no longer necessary!



## E-File Versus Regular Paper File?

Real People with Real Questions About Real Situations

Dear Neel,

My accountant has E-filed my return for years, but recently I learned from a CRA insider that paper-filed returns have a lower chance of being audited. Can you verify this? I contacted CRA and they wouldn't say either way?



Ryan M.

Dear Ryan,

I am not an authority on this matter, but having offered the E-file option since 2000, I have found it to be a very efficient and environmentally friendly service. Because it's paperless, it makes sense that CRA would request verification of certain claims. Moving expenses, for example, are frequently audited, because the amount is usually several thousand dollars. The same goes for high medical expenses. While CRA can't force you to E-file, a

person who paper-files a return like that, with all the receipts, is in fact not likely to be audited.

However, the time to process these returns can be longer, and an audit on other items down the road is still possible. I encourage you to continue using the E-file services in all appropriate situations. Also, take advantage of the various E-services CRA has offered for several years now. You should register for your personal login name so you can access your account or work with your accountant online to resolve a variety of issues. If you need assistance getting this set up, contact the help desk at 1-800-714-7257. Hope this helps!

Are You *Just Asking* tax questions?  
Neel can *Just Answer* them.



## Did You Know?



**"Dog Gone!" says this floppy eared critter.**

**Those floppy eared bunnies can't hear as well as short-eared wabbits, I mean rabbits.**

Got an interesting fact? [Email it so us!](#)

**P.S: Astronomy enthusiasts can follow Neel's monthly column Sky's the Limit in the Vulcan Advocate printed the first Wednesday of every month!**

It's a Photo Finish!  
The World's Largest Easter Bunny Cake!  
Hope you left room for dessert!



Courtesy [www.odditycentral.com](http://www.odditycentral.com)

Four confectioners from Chomutov in the Czech Republic claim they've created the world's largest Easter Bunny Cake and hope to get a place in the *Guinness World Records*. It's not the cutest bunny but probably one of the most delicious. Creators at a cake shop spent 48 hours preparing the sweet treat in time for Easter. They used 770 eggs, 160 pounds of sponge cake, 120 pounds of cream, 44 pounds of jam, and 40 pounds of marzipan to make the themed cake, and then covered it all with a layer of chocolate. When it was finished, the big-eyed edible bunny weighed over 370 pounds and measured over 6 feet in length.

On Easter Day the chocolate bunny cake was sliced into pieces and handed to people in the Czech town of UherskéHradiště. Everybody loves cake, but some people were a little freaked out by the bunny's appearance. "It might taste sweet, but you wouldn't want to run into it in a dark alley," a customer of the cake shop said. Freaky or not, this one-of-a-kind Easter cake is awaiting confirmation from the *Guinness World Records* for the world's largest Easter Bunny Cake. When I first saw it, I thought it was a modern-day Egyptian Sphinx!

[Send us your fascinating photo or story.](#)

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