**Tax Filing for Newcomers to Canada**

If you are a newcomer to Canada, either as an immigrant or an international student, you will need to file a tax return if you:

* Have to pay taxes for the year.
* Want to claim a tax refund or access benefits (such as the GST/HST credit or the Canada Child Benefit).
* Earned income from employment, self-employment, or received scholarships, bursaries, or grants.

Even if your income is below the taxable threshold, filing a return can be beneficial, as it may grant you access to credits and benefits.

**Information and Documents Needed for Tax Filing**

Before you start your tax return, gather all required documents and information. Important items include:

* Social Insurance Number (SIN): This is required for filing a tax return.
* World Income: Report any income you earned in the year before arriving in Canada, as this may affect your eligibility for certain credits and benefits.
* Family Information: If you arrived with your spouse or dependents, each adult should file their own tax return. Additionally, if you have children in Canada, include their details to access relevant tax credits and benefits.
* Tuition Fee Form (T2202): If you're a student, this form allows you to claim tuition credits.
* Employment Income (T4): If you worked in Canada, you will receive a T4 slip from your employer showing your earnings and deductions.
* Business Income and Expenses: If you earned self-employment income (for example, as an Uber driver, delivery driver, or consultant), you'll need to report both income and related expenses.
* Rent Paid for Your Home.

**After filing your taxes**, here are a few important points to remember:

**1. Receipt of Refund or Amount Owing and Notice of Assessment**

* After your return is processed, you’ll receive a Notice of Assessment, which will confirm if you have a refund or if you owe additional tax. Any refund will be sent by cheque or direct deposit, depending on your setup.

**2. Potential CRA Benefits**

* You may qualify for various benefits, including:
  + **GST/HST Credits** (sales tax benefits)
  + **Climate Action Incentive** (carbon tax refund)
  + **Ontario Trillium Benefits (OTB)**
* The CRA may ask for details about your world income before you arrived in Canada to determine eligibility for benefits. If you receive a letter requesting this information, call the number provided and share the necessary details.

**3. Register for “CRA My Account”**

* Visit My Account for Individuals on Canada.ca to register. During registration, you may need to provide details from your tax return (such as the amount on line 10100).
* Registering for a CRA My Account allows you to:
  + Set up direct deposit and update your bank information.
  + Update your address, marital status, and other personal details.
  + Access your tax information and manage your account easily online.

By setting up your CRA My Account, you can handle all your tax-related matters conveniently.