



THE Tax Tipper

April 14, 2019

We take your taxes personally!

Issue 66

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President and Founder
 Neel Roberts
 PTC Canada
 Box 1347
 Vulcan, Alberta T0L 2B0
 Phone 866-485-2683
 Fax 866-485-2761
taxes@ptccanada.com
<http://ptccanada.com>

Our Readers Respond

As a business owner/operator it is hard to stay ahead. Neel provided me an easy solution to stay on top of my personal and business taxes without having to step away from the operations of my business. The CRA has a small window in which they are available to discuss tax matters, but PTC Canada takes away all the headaches and provides easy, fast solutions. I was very impressed with the turnaround time: less than 48 hours. I appreciate your help and how fast you expedited everything, so I'm happy to recommend you in any way I can!

Chris Campbell
 Owner of 2110fitness.com
 Calgary, Alberta

For more, go to 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,

Whether or not you believe the ground-hog saw its shadow back in February, winter was here right until the day it turned spring in southern Alberta. It's been dry, with a few grass fires already, which is not good in farmland. With spring run-off starting in the Rocky Mountains, we're hoping for those April showers and good crops down the road. If you're new to the **Tax Tipper**, welcome aboard. You can get all our previous [newsletters](#), [bulletins](#), and more resources on our website, www.ptccanada.com. With over 20 years of information, we don't miss much and have helped countless taxpayers around the world get their Canadian taxes resolved.

With a federal election coming this fall, the political landscape has changed much since the last newsletter. The recent [SNC-Lavalin scandal](#) has plunged the Liberals from a sure bet to the underdog. As things stand now, the Conservatives may even get a majority, [according to the latest polls](#). Similarly in Alberta, the United Conservative Party (UCP) is expected to [unseat the NDP in one of the biggest landslides](#) since Ralph Klein 20 years ago. Other provinces, like Manitoba, New Brunswick, Ontario, and more, have swung right in recent elections. South of the border, Donald Trump is [polling above 50%](#) and is expected to be at about 65% by [next year's historic election win](#), while the [Democrats have no chance at all](#) and in fact will [probably disappear next decade](#). In Europe, countries like Italy, Poland, and Austria have gone nationalist, while France, Germany, and England want to shed socialist leadership for reforms like their neighbours. Are you seeing a trend here?

I predict that not only will this continue

but 2019 will be a turnaround year across the globe. I know, it's hard to see because we're in real time, but those who lived through the boom days of Alberta in the mid 2000s (when I launched the **Tipper!**) will remember that we were the diamond of the country and possibly the world. Today we are seeing a similar phenomenon in the US. With unemployment below 1969 levels, record GDP, top world oil production, and ever-growing corporate headquarters, Donald Trump's election promise of "You'll get tired of winning" is coming true, especially now that the Mueller report on Russian collusion has shown it to be a total hoax. Here at home, people are getting anxious, as evidenced by the [Yellow Vest movement](#) happening at least every weekend at various locations and the new [United We Roll](#) movement, a caravan going down to Ottawa. All in all, activism is moving in the right direction.

One of the predictions I'm making for the next decade is that the people are finally going to take back the media. Quite frankly, it's no longer a secret that the mainstream media is mostly fake. They've become [so arrogant that when they get caught](#), they don't realize [how dumb they look in public](#) when their own ex-journalists [confess to bias behind the scenes](#). Tommy Robinson launched an undercover [exposé of the BBC at their headquarters](#), called [Panodrama](#), right on the street with thousands at the premiere. The [censorship has moved right into social media](#), prompting ex-employees of Facebook, etc. to become [undercover journalists for Project Veritas](#). The idea that search engines like [Google are unbiased](#) has become such a [myth](#) that the US government is now calling for [investigations into them for de-platforming](#)

Continued on page 2

Neel's Message, continued

bias. Independent journalists like Faith Goldy are being taken down with no notice, prompting the inventor of the internet, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, to come up with a new platform so people can not only have more control but protect their information online. At the time of writing, one of the biggest internet sensations, Julian Assange of Wikileaks, has been arrested. He is a hot potato, no doubt, for both free speech and censors, so more to come on that.

Another trend I see coming for the next decade is a massive, much needed reset of the current financial system from a faith-based structure to a commodity backed organization. Let's face it, people are having a problem figuring out what something is worth today, and when our fiat currency is backed by nothing, it's inevitable that the crooked will prosper while the rest of us go broke. With Trump moving new people into the Federal Reserve, I believe that'll be the starting point for decentralizing the untouchable banking system so the people can take back control. While I believe in the theory of Krypto currencies, there are still too many unknown or suspicious problems with them. Recently, Gerald Cotten, the founder of Canadian crypto exchange QuadrigaCX,

died suddenly at age 30 while \$145 million in currency went missing. In other words, an entire exchange was resting on one man's keys, and when he went, so did the whole business. Those following the Krypto market will know that it's been in the dumps for the last year. Showing little hope of going back to the highs of 2017–18, it may even become worthless while undiscerning individuals keep loading their life savings into it. Let me leave you with this, for those seeking to trade off the grid: Did you know the NSA came up with the idea of Bitcoin in 1996, well before it came on the market 10 years ago? I'll just leave it at that!

Easter this year will be a working weekend, with no deep-fried turkey for me. No matter, as the summer isn't far off now and quad season is around the corner. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a safe and blessed Easter holiday wherever you may spend it. It's one of the busiest weekends for me, as that's when tax season shifts into high gear, so little celebration for me. Enjoy the spring **Tax Tipper!**

Neel Roberts
President and Founder

What's Happening

2019 Federal Budget Now Here

Finance Minister Bill Morneau presented the last Trudeau budget Tuesday, March 19, 2019, called Investing in the Middle Class. As reported in my news bulletin that day, while there were some election-friendly tax breaks, it was more about spending and deficits, and hope for a turnaround anytime soon is pretty well gone. No doubt many more people are opposing the religious cult of carbon taxes, calling for taxpayer protection from this fraud, since there is no true data to support it. (Check out www.climatedepot.com for more on this.) Commenting on the budget, Andrew Coyne of the National Post put it best: "The federal budget is a testament to the pleasures of endless growth. Forget productivity, tax cuts or investment."



2019 Tax Filing Deadline at the End of April!

The deadline for most personal returns is now 16 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 2018 return, plan 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. Make sure you authorize us if you haven't already done so or you are a new client. The days of office locations and 9–5 hours are 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!



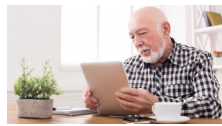
More on What's Happening

CRA, Charities, and Reforms for Audit Regarding Political Activities



On March 7, 2019, the Minister of National Revenue issued recommendations for the ongoing audits of charities relating to their political activities. While I don't do much with charities, many people give to them, so we should be aware of what can happen. Retroactive to September 14, 2018, CRA will lift a suspension of audits in progress in the interim pending guidance on the implementation of these new rules. Those charities will hear from the government shortly on the status of their files. Check out the [information bulletin from Knowledge Bureau](#) or contact the [charities department](#) at 1-800-267-2384 for details.

Some Good News for Seniors Receiving Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) Benefits



For those who receive Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) benefits, the bad news first: You're not getting a raise as much as it's needed. The good news is that the clawback on these benefits has been reduced a bit because of inflation and Old Age Security benefits calculations. [Knowledge Bureau](#) explains the ins and outs of who may benefit. For more information, contact the [GIS benefits](#) line at 1-800-277-9914.

New Credits, Benefits, and Services for Your 2018 Personal Taxes



Every year there are several new changes and/or additions to the tax code. Most don't affect the average filer immediately, but the CRA recently listed the [highlights of changes and benefits](#) that filers may be interested in. The [list of tips](#) includes [filing your own taxes for free](#), [improved online access to your tax, benefit, and social security information](#), acceptance of [payment arrangements](#), [Auto-fill](#), and [getting free filing services](#).

For further details, check out the [Finance Department's news website](#) or contact the tax line at 1-800-959-8281.

H&R Block Survey Shows People Have Less than One Hour of Free Time a Day and Don't Invest Refunds Right



A [recent article about H&R Block](#) surveying its client base about how much free time they have and how they spend their tax refund is most revealing. The 2,000 adults surveyed said they have just 4 hours and 26 minutes of time to themselves in a week. For many who live from paycheque to paycheque, financial planning was at the bottom of the to-do list, among the things they are not able to finish. When asked what they spend their tax refund on, paying down debt ranked 7 out of 10, so it's no wonder they are where they are. While I try to share good information, it is up to the individual to decide if they want to improve their situation by reprioritizing their lives. I don't believe people winning the game of life are smarter than everyone else. They just see the playing field differently—and that's where it starts.

Complex Tax Rules Stump Even the Pros



A [recent article in the *Globe and Mail*](#), called "When even the pros don't understand Canada's income tax system, you know there's a problem," correctly points out the ever-growing convolutions in the Canada Tax Code.

CRA has over 40,000 employees while the IRS south of the border has only about 80,000 overseeing 10 times the population, so we have a top-heavy problem. What's more, we're losing the battle because the Income Tax Act has swelled from six pages in 1917 to 1,412 pages in 2017, or 235 times in this age of technology and automation. While I support all the electronic services, the real issue seems to be about keeping people in the dark as to how the system works. For example, in 2018 a Senate committee discovered that fewer than 40% of the adults who were entitled to the disability tax credit in 2012 succeeded in claiming it, largely because of the daunting amount of paperwork required. I have believed for a long time that not only are lower taxes possible but basic returns should be down to one page—and I will continue to advocate for this.

More on What's Happening

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



Wouldn't it be nice to just deposit all your receipts into 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 \$14.99 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.

Taxes and the Sharing Economy



The sharing economy, whether it's accommodation sharing, transportation, space rentals, making and selling goods, or providing services, grows each year not only for users but for providers as well. Generally speaking, providers are considered self-employed for tax purposes and entitled to deduct costs associated with earning income. Taxpayers need to educate themselves on their obligations for filing, collecting, etc. While most businesses don't need to register for GST if sales are under \$30K, this is not the case for ride-sharing platforms like Uber, where you must register regardless of sales. For further information, check out the [sharing economy bulletin](#) or contact the [business line](#) at 1-800-959-5525.

Just Asking ... Just Answering

Moved to Alberta from Quebec in 2018. Do I Still File Two Returns?

Real People with Real Questions About Real Situations



Dear Neel,
I moved to Alberta from Quebec last year, and I am used to filing two tax returns. Do I do that again, since I paid

taxes and have deductions in both provinces?

Art R.

Dear Art,
No. Quebec is the only province that requires its residents to file a federal and a provincial return. These returns are completely independent of each other and apply only if you were living there on December 31. Since you moved to Alberta before that, you only file one return in Alberta, which is part of the federal return.

One of the issues ex-residents of Quebec face is claiming some deductions, like taxes, etc., to offset what's owed to the federal government. Your tax professional can do this for you, or if you're filing the return yourself, combine the Quebec portion of the taxes paid with the federal. CRA may ask for an explanation during the assessment process, so have all your documentation ready. Also, make sure you claim moving expenses for any unreimbursed expenses. Hope this helps!

Are You *Just Asking* tax questions?

Neel can *Just Answer* them.



NEW!



us on Facebook!



It's a Photo Finish! Inside the Cadbury Easter Egg Factory



Check out how they make those famous Easter eggs we see on the shelves this time of year!

Courtesy www.buzzfeed.com

Ever wondered how Cadbury makes those treats? The Cadbury factory in Bournville, England, has churned out the famous treats since 1875, over 140 years. Since 1923, they have produced the cream-filled version, and of the 90 million produced, 47 million are in Britain alone. [Check out this short clip](#) of the largest chocolate factory in the UK!

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

Did You Know?

Some farmers offer dyed chicks for Easter!
Now that's different!



P.S. Astronomy enthusiasts can follow Neel's monthly column [Sky's the Limit](#) in the [Vulcan Advocate](#) the first Wednesday of every month!

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