



THE Tax Tipper

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We take your taxes personally!

Issue 61

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Our Readers Respond

PTC Canada's service has been excellent, and I would recommend Neel for any business or personal tax issue. It seems that up until he got involved in my taxes, it was very difficult to get answers from CRA, but now things flow a lot better. I appreciate all the extra help with my situation!

Bernie Squire
 Eastport, Newfoundland

Home of the 2024 Canadian Solar Eclipse

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!**

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

Dear Clients and Friends,

Wow, what a winter it's been out west this year. I have snowbanks higher than me in late March! With record snowpack on the Rocky Mountains, it's no wonder we're worried about deluges coming to southern Alberta. While it's great for the ground and the farmers, it's a déjà vu nightmare for those who still haven't recovered from the 2013 floods.

If you're new, welcome aboard! You can get all our previous [newsletters and bulletins](#), as well as many more resources, at www.ptccanada.com. With almost 20 years of information, we don't miss much, and we have helped countless people around the world get their Canadian taxes resolved.

The social media world is entering turmoil, with [Facebook stock plunging at the news that FB may have violated a Federal Trade Commission privacy deal, triggering the risk of massive fines](#). Mark Zuckerberg himself lost over \$6 billion in one day, and there's more to come. Now that the masses are realizing that their information is being harvested for ulterior motives at the same time as [their free speech is being censored](#), it's no surprise that [Facebook has seen a 24% drop in average time spent on its site](#). [Renegade employees of Silicon Valley giants have been countering all of this by starting their own ventures](#) to restore free speech and ensure that all have equal access to the web. With a proposed [Internet Bill of Rights](#) in the works, this looks like a time of big change. Now I've decided to move more assertively onto social media, as I totally believe it's the future. Those of you who have already [liked us on Facebook](#) will get regular

updates on everything that's going on in the tax world.

Unlike social media, the mainstream media (MSM) continues to become less and less relevant, with [downsizing, layoffs, and more](#). The [recent bankruptcy of the largest radio company, iHeart](#), is a good indication of where it's all going. Let's face it. Donald Trump totally exposed them in the 2016 election. The recent Joel Gilbert movie [The Art of the Insult](#) is 95 minutes of laughter anybody can enjoy, and no surprise, the mainstream media is rightly at the centre of Trump's attacks. Not only is Trump an expert at exposing them, but he understands better than anyone how the news cycle works. While he'll pretend to go to sleep on a promise, or even appear to be compromising, he'll come out of the blue and pounce on the issue. Just look at how he [unceremoniously went after the drug companies over the opioid crisis](#). Their stock dropped like a brick, and it isn't over.

The mainstream media has deliberately covered up important truths for years, like [high-tech projects paid for with your tax dollars](#), while pushing outlandish nonsense like [the Russian invasion](#). That's why intelligence leaks like [Qanon](#) have grown exponentially at virtually no cost. I've been following them since the New Year, and they've been amazingly accurate much of the time. I also follow people like [Dr. Jerome Corsi](#), author of the new bestseller [Killing the Deep State: The Fight to Save President Trump](#), and ordinary folks like [Just Informed Talk](#), who can explain the posts, given that they're often in military, cryptic intelligence that the average person won't get right

Continued on page 2

Neel's Message, continued

away. I can't wait to see a new book coming out in May: [*The Killing of Uncle Sam: The Demise of the United States of America*](#), which goes into detail about how fake news has not only been around a long time but is intricately woven into society at all levels. While I don't agree with all of author Rodney Howard-Browne's world views, I could see that he'd done an amazing job when [I heard his half-hour interview](#). He is [offering one chapter for free now](#).

Lastly, I want to address cryptocurrencies, as I'm getting asked about them. Some of you were wise enough to cash out at the peak before Christmas. You can download our [Investment Tax Booklet](#) for details on how to report for your 2017 taxes. I don't see them recovering anytime soon. Bitcoin, for example, was forecasted to reach \$100,000 US by the end of this year, but with it staggering under \$10,000 since the New Year, that seems unlikely. In my [Christmas newsletter](#), during its euphoria, I said that this was a great time to start studying it. I'm not into it, because mining takes too many resources and everybody agrees it's overly volatile. I'm waiting for the next generation to come out. It's going to be a much better run, and most will have the opportunity to participate in a saner way.

For example, new computers coming out this year will be [equipped with video cards specific for mining](#). This will be more efficient and won't take up heaps of power like the current version. Also, watch for the mainstreaming of payment like credit/debit/cash and improved clearinghouses, making it easier to move money around. [Puerto Rico is being considered as the entrepreneur hub for brokerage services](#) in cryptos. After the devastation last year by hurricanes, this is a great opportunity for that land's recovery. I see myself getting into it at that point, as power will move back to the people and away from the establishment. I'll keep you posted as things develop.

I've stayed out of social media and cryptos for years because I foresaw positive change coming. Now that they're on their backs, it's time to get in, as the shakeup stands a good chance of getting rid of the evil. I have no doubt that things will get bloody before we see the sunshine again, but

don't expect the powers that be to leave politely—they are fighting for their lives. We can be thankful for a bulldog like Donald Trump, who seems to be spearheading this. I expect public opinion to shift massively in his favour this year, while moving radically against the establishment. Let's face it. These people don't know when to leave, but they do know that he's the man to finish them off. One of my favourite [Star Trek episodes](#) from 1967, called [The Doomsday Machine](#), is about a mysterious machine that eats up entire worlds unstopably. That's exactly how the establishment sees Trump, and they know they're doomed.

It's the little people like me, you, and the independent media who are making the real changes. We've been proactive since the mid 2000s, with the courage to tell the truth. The **Tax Tipper** has only been around since 2006 but has made a difference. I can't tell you how many times people have said, "I saw your newsletter somewhere." Some have become clients and all have been glad they found my information. Believe me, in 12 years, even with only 1,000 subscribers, it's possible to make change in the world, as this newsletter has been seen by millions. Yes, many people are apathetic. Many people believe that whatever's going on will go on forever, or they are right no matter what. (Hint: that's why their judgement is so bad!) I've chosen not to be like them, and that's why clients like to deal with us.

I don't believe in time travel, but someone recently described the times we live in this way. If the futurists reading the history books had a choice of where and when to go, they would pay a premium to come to this era, because they would like to see how we dealt with it all.

Now that you can relax, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a safe and blessed Easter holiday wherever you may spend it. It's a busy weekend for me, with tax season shifting into high gear, so there will be little celebration for me. Enjoy the spring **Tax Tipper!**

Neel Roberts
President and Founder



[us on Facebook!](#)



What's Happening

2018 Federal Budget Now Here



Finance Minister Bill Morneau presented the [third Trudeau government budget](#) on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018, called [Equality Growth—A Strong Middle Class](#). As I reported in [my news bulletin that day](#), this is about more spending and deficits, and it doesn't give much hope for a turnaround anytime soon. No doubt many [companies will continue to reject this approach, with job losses](#), and find friendlier places for business. Commenting on the budget, [Andrew Coyne of the National Post](#) put it best: [The Liberals deliver a federal budget that has nothing to do with budgeting, or the economy. This is much more about equality than it is growth. That, and pandering to every conceivable Liberal client group and policy cult.](#)

Link Between My Account (Tax) and My Service Canada Account (General)



Another progressive step in the integration of government services is going online. Many of you already have a CRA [My Account](#) and [My Business Account](#) in the [CRA E-services](#) system. Now with the click of a mouse, you can link up [My Service Canada Account](#) to access your Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, and/or Old Age Security information, including all records of employment. And you can view/print your tax slips, your payment/deduction information, and more. For further information, check out the [Service Canada website](#) or contact the call centre at 1-800-959-8281.

The Canada Caregiver Credit or CCC: Compassionate, Complicated, Crazy—or All of the Above?



Many do-it-yourselfers are throwing in the towel this year because of complex new rules like the [Canada Caregiver Credit](#) or [CCC](#). While the CCC gives some relief to those in need, the question is who qualifies and how much? The [Disability Tax Credit](#) had enough qualifying issues, including transferring to appropriate parties, but the CCC has taken things to another level.

Cont'd

A recent article by the Knowledge Bureau, [How to claim your sick spouse or child as a dependent](#), gives a good head start, but you will need professional help if you can't figure it out yourself. I've already done a few claims, making as much as a \$4K difference when done correctly, but it wasn't easy. There are lots of checks and balances, so for further help, contact the tax line at 1-800-959-8281.

New Vets' Education and Training Benefit Up to \$80K for Books, Tuition, and Living Expenses



A brand new, unique benefit called the [Veterans' Education and Training Benefit](#) starts Sunday, April 1, 2018. While it's still an [evolving program](#), veterans who are honorably discharged will qualify for a \$40,000 benefit if they have six years of eligible service, and up to \$80,000 with twelve years of eligible service, to be used at the institution of their choice. The [Knowledge Bureau explains the program in a detailed article](#). For further information, check out the [Veterans Affairs website](#) or call toll free 1-866-522-2122.

2018 Tax Filing Deadline at the End of April!



The deadline for most personal returns is now 36 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 2017 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

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.

90% of Canadian Families Will Pay Higher Taxes Next Year, with No Relief in Sight



There's no easy way to say this. Most people's taxes are going up next year by at least \$2K. A recent [Toronto Sun](#) article by [Jenny Yuen](#) quotes the Fraser Institute report [The Effect on Canadian Families of Changes to Federal Income Tax and CPP Payroll Tax](#). Over 92% of all families with children will pay higher taxes. And once the Canada Pension Plan tax increases are fully implemented by 2025, they'll be paying on average \$2,200 more per year. Oh, what about the other 8%? You guessed it: their tax bill will either stay the same or slightly decrease. This does not include scaling back of the contribution room of the Tax Free Savings Account and new taxes being implemented on small businesses.

Seniors and Taxes: What You Need to Know to Get the Most



As of 2016, there were over 5.9 million seniors in Canada compared to 5.8 million children aged 14 and under, and that number has since grown. There's a mounting need for services for seniors, and taxes are no exception. A [recent checklist from CRA](#) gives a good head start on what people over 65 can qualify for. Also, because [CPP rules changed a couple of years ago](#), there are [options for those who work into their senior years](#).

I am often asked what to do, and it takes a consultation to tailor a plan for you. Paying for a tax professional's time is well worth it to maximize your benefits. For further help, check out the [seniors' website](#) or contact the tax line at 1-800-959-8281.

New Credits, Benefits, and Services for Your 2017 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 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 online 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.

Did You Know?

They *freeze* the caramel to get it into the Caramilk bar?



Now you're smarter than the rest !



Got an interesting fact, a fascinating photo or story? Email it to us!

CRA Sent Me a Letter Telling Me to File Over the Phone

Real People with Real Questions About Real Situations



Dear Neel,
I was surprised to get a letter in the mail from CRA telling me to file my taxes by phone. I've always gone to my accountant in the past, and I don't mind paying since it's always

done right. Should I save the money and use this system? I've asked others but just get mixed answers.

Mike F.

Dear Mike,
I'm not surprised that you're getting mixed answers on this. Not only is it new but it takes your representative out of the picture, and that's not to everybody's liking.

The new [File my Return](#) service started this year to target a specific demographic: taxpayers who are not only low-income but also have traditionally done their own filing or used a discount service. Tax professionals have serious reservations about this, as it tends to make taxpayers comfortable with the idea of not bothering to get an opinion from a professional accounting service. A taxpayer may not know when their

circumstances have changed to the point where they can no longer use this service. For example, some types of income, like contract work issued on a T4A, entitle the taxpayer to deductions. These may get overlooked, as this system is meant for passive income.

If you're looking to get your basic return done for free with the human touch, I recommend the [Community Volunteer Income Tax Program](#), which has run well for decades. Also, most firms will give you a free opinion about your situation so you have an idea if the "File my Return" service is good for you. Check out our handouts [Ten Reasons Taxpayers Hire a Professional](#) and [Ten Ways to Assess a Tax Consultant's Fees](#). These will answer many of your questions and help you decide what's best. I recommend that you don't blindly use this service without expert advice. Hope this helps!

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



It's a Photo Finish!

Them Tough Canucks Easter Ice Fishing

Let's see the world beat this one!



Courtesy www.buzzfeed.com

We may be coming into spring, but it's still winter in many parts of our great country. Here's how some Canadians will take in the Easter weekend. Now you may think "Ice Fishing" is not that big a deal, but "Ice Swimming"? I'm not even talking about the popular polar bear swim that takes place on New Year's Day. Take a minute out of your day to watch this [one-minute video](#) and then tell me your perspective hasn't changed. I sent this to my snowmobiling buddies last year, and we still laugh about it around the campfire!

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