



Canadian Tax & Benefit Updates: CRA Changes, Amounts, and Key Dates (February 2026)

The official website for the CRA uses web addresses that either: Start in Canada.ca or end in cra-arc.gc.ca

Always use a strong password or passphrase to protect your personal information. A passphrase is a memorized phrase consisting of mixed words with or without spaces.

GenAI chatbot beta: The chatbot is available 24/7 on Canada.ca to help you quickly find information on CRA programs and services.

Manage balance: If you have a personal tax debt of \$1,000 or more, you can set up payment arrangements on your own using the "Manage Balance" service in My Account.

If you get locked out of your CRA account or forget your login, you can reset your credentials online without having to call in. Use the CRA's self-service option to create a new credential.

Key Dates Coming Up

Income tax returns can be submitted starting February 23, 2026.



The RRSP contribution deadline is March 2, 2026. This is also the deadline to receive most tax slips, including T4, T4A, T5, T3, and RRSP contribution receipts.

Personal income tax returns are due by April 30, 2026. Self-employed individuals have until June 15, 2026 to file.

Starting July 1, 2025, the lowest marginal individual income tax rate will be reduced from 15% to 14%. For 2025 14.5% (average) and 14% moving forward.

Starting in February 2026, CRA account users will be required to have a backup MFA option on file, such as passcode grid or third-party authenticator app.

To help prevent taxpayers' online accounts from unauthorized access, My Account users are required to have an email address on file with the CRA.



If you owe taxes and do not pay by April 30, 2026, interest will begin accruing on May 1, 2026, compounded daily.

Starting in February 2026, you can only view your digital notices of assessment and reassessment in My Account, after the CRA receives and processes your tax return.



When a property originally acquired for personal use is converted to a rental property during the current year, a change in use occurs. As a result, the capital cost of the property must be determined at the time the change in use takes place.

Online mail for businesses: In spring 2025, the CRA transitioned most businesses to online mail as the default method of correspondence. As a result, most notices of assessment, letters, forms, statements, and other documents are now delivered through My Business Account rather than by traditional mail. Taxpayers are responsible for regularly monitoring and tracking their CRA accounts to ensure they do not miss important CRA communications.

2026 Canadian Tax & Benefits Brief: CRA Updates and Key Policy Changes

Bill C-4, introduces the first-time home buyers' GST rebate that will enhance the existing rebate on new homes to eliminate GST on homes valued at \$1 M or less, with the maximum \$50,000 rebate phased out for homes valued at \$1 M to \$1.5 M, for agreements entered into on or after March 20, 2025.

The **RRSP** contribution limit for 2026 increases to \$33,810. The Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) annual contribution limit remains at \$7,000 for 2026.

Health Canada announced that the ability to apply for the **Canadian dental care plan (CDCP)** would be opened in May 2025 for uninsured Canadians aged 18 to 64. To qualify, applicants must have an adjusted family net income under \$90,000, be Canadian residents for tax purposes, have filed their 2024 tax returns and not have access to

In Canada, once an **individual turns 19**, they become eligible for programs such as the GST/HST credit. However, to receive these payments, a tax return must be filed. Keeping an up-to-date tax history can reduce issues down the line when they need

CRA announced that new business number registrations, including adding new program accounts to existing business numbers, must be done online through **Business Registration Online (BRO)** effective November 3, 2025.

MY Account: CRA is changing the method of delivering most mail from paper to online only. Affected taxpayers will receive an email notification and a letter with more information on what is

No more waiting: CRA has improved the "Alternative process for individuals" in Represent a Client. Now, tax preparers can get instant access to your account when you provide the

New to Canada? CRA released a Tax Tip announcing a new tool that allows newcomers to apply for the GST/HST credit online.

Doctors, nurses, early childhood educators, dentists, dental hygienists, pharmacists, midwives, teachers, social workers, personal support workers, physiotherapists and psychologists **working in rural or remote areas** should check if they can apply for the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness program (Employment and Social Development

A new temporary, refundable tax credit equal to 5% of qualifying earnings would be available to **personal workers** employed by eligible health care establishments. The credit would apply to the 2026-2030 taxation years.

As a **crypto-asset user**, you have to report your earnings (or losses) on your income tax returns and may have to collect and remit (pay) GST and

Gig workers who are resident in Canada must report and pay tax on all self-employed income. This requirement also applies to **peer-to-peer sales and sharing-economy activities, such as commercial ridesharing and accommodation sharing**, and GST/HST may also be required depending on the nature and level of the

2026 Canadian Tax Thresholds & Benefit Amounts: Key Figures and CRA Statistics

2026 CPP exemptions and pensionable earnings: CPP1 max earnings \$74,600; CPP2 max earnings \$85,000; Exemption \$3,500. Max contribution: **\$4,230.45** **CPP1, \$4,646.45** **CPP2 included.** CPP Rate: 5.95% on CPP1; 4.00% on CPP2; employer's portion matches dollar for dollar.

2026 EI Contributions: Max earnings \$68,900; Max contribution: **\$1,123.07**. EI Rate: 1.63%; employer's portion 1.4 times

On January 1, 2026, CRA released statistics for the 2025 individual income tax filing season in respect of 2024 returns. Overall, **93% of returns were filed electronically** (60.24% by EFILE, 32.65% by NETFILE, 0.26% by SimpleFile), while 6.85% were filed on paper. A total of **33,715,560 returns were filed**. Of these, **19,161,830 resulted in refunds**, with 79% paid by direct deposit and 21% by cheque. In addition, **8,181,630 returns reported balances owing**, and 6,306,210 were nil returns.

Tax bracket thresholds: 14.5% on the first **\$57,375** of taxable income; **20.5%** on taxable income over **\$57,375** up to **\$114,750**; **26%** on taxable income over **\$114,750** up to **\$177,882**; **29%** on taxable income over **\$177,882** up to **\$253,414**; **33%** on taxable income over

Child disability benefit (CDB): Maximum benefit **\$3,480**; **\$82,847** family net income threshold for phase out.

Canada child benefit (CCB): \$8,157 (child under age 6), **\$6,883** (child aged 6 to 17). Adjusted family net income at which phase out begins

For 2026, the OAS repayment threshold increases to **\$95,323**. Above this amount, OAS benefits get reduced by 15 cents for every dollar of income

The basic personal amount (BPA) is **\$16,129 (2025)**, representing the portion of income that all Canadians can earn without paying federal income tax.

Repeated failure to report income: Taxpayers who fail to report income equal to or exceeding **\$500** for a second time in a four-year period are subject to a penalty equal to the lesser of the following: 10% of the unreported amount; and 50% of the taxes payable.

Sources: Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) - Canada.ca

Any information provided by or through CFQ Accounting and Consulting CPA is not a substitute for professional legal, tax, or accounting advice. You should not act or rely on any information provided without seeking the advice of a professional.