



CRA, Taxes and Benefits:

Income Tax:

No matter what time of the year the newcomer(s) arrive, they must file a tax return.

From the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) website:

As permanent residents of Canada, sponsored refugees must file a tax return for part or all of a tax year (January 1 to December 31) if they:

- Have to pay tax; or,
- Want to claim a refund.

Even if newcomers have not received income in the year, **they have to file a tax return** so that the CRA can determine if they are eligible for:

- The GST/HST credit.
- The Canada Child Benefit.
- Payments from certain Ontario programs.

For more information and instructions on how to file a tax return, sponsors and sponsored refugees can go to the CRA website (<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/newcomers/>):

- Money received from a church/sponsor group is considered a 'gift' and does not have to be reported to the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) when newcomers file their tax return.
- Income from the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) must be reported, although it is not taxable. Newcomers who arrive through the BVOR (Blended Visa Office Referred) program should receive a T5007 (Statement of Benefits) from the government in February.

Sponsors must ensure that newcomer(s) are aware of their need to file their taxes, the date they must file by and where they can access help (Free Tax Clinics, for example).

Priority



This is a HIGH priority task and has specific deadlines that are important to know.

Timing



This task must be started within the first week of arrival and monitored according to deadlines.

Group Participation



The entire refugee sponsoring group should be aware of the deadlines, but only those supporting the newcomer(s) with finances need to be directly involved.

Canada Child Benefit (CCB)

The Canada Child Benefit is a monthly tax-free payment for families with children under the age of 18. CCB has replaced the various previous benefits (CCTB, NCBS, UCCB).

How to apply?

The sponsoring group can assist the newcomer(s) to apply for the CCB by completing the required forms:

- RC66 <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/rc66/README.html>
- Schedule RC66SCH. <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/rc66sch/README.html>

And sending them to their corresponding tax centre: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/ddrss-eng.html>

How much CCB will you get?

The amount of money you receive depends on the number of children and family income. Families with less than \$30,000 in family net income will receive the maximum benefit. There are additional supports for children with disabilities.

You may receive up to:

- \$6,400 per year (\$533 per month) for each child under the age of 6
- \$5,400 per year (\$450 per month) for each child aged 6 to 17
- Inform the family that in order to continue to receive the CCB, they have to file their income tax and benefit returns for every year, even if they have no income to report.
- The amount received will be back dated to when the family arrived in Canada. Apply as soon as possible and allow for several months processing.
- Keep copies/records of all applications you send.

LINKS to CRA:

Complete information on the CCB is on the CRA website:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/ccb/menu-eng.html>

CCB Benefits Calculator:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/clcltr/cfbc-eng.html>

The CRA website also has videos for Newcomers explaining what taxes pay for:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/vdglly/ndvdl/menu-eng.html?clp=ndvdl/nwcmrs-eng&fmt=mp4>

For all tax credits/benefits, visit the CRA website:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/menu-eng.html>

1. Apply as soon as possible, as the processing time can be several months. When payments begin, they will be retroactive.

2. There are several free tax clinics offered for low income families that newcomer families can access.

3. To apply for citizenship Permanent Residents MUST have filed their taxes regularly.

4. You can receive CCB before filing a tax return, but must file a tax return to keep receiving it.