



News Release

Tax cheating is a crime

Ottawa, Ontario, January 23, 2008... Gordon O'Connor, Minister of National Revenue, reminds Canadians that not complying with the tax laws will result in serious consequences.

"Not paying your taxes is against the law," said Minister O'Connor. "The Canada Revenue Agency works hard to identify and correct non-compliance. This keeps the system fair for the honest Canadians who comply with the tax laws."

In 2006-2007, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) criminal investigations led to convictions in 245 cases of tax evasion, or 98% of the files prosecuted. Courts imposed fines totalling \$13.4 million and sentenced 26 offenders to more than 37 years in prison. Sentences for those who were ordered to serve jail time for tax-related offences ranged from 1 month to 3 years.

Convictions for tax evasion, including not filing tax returns and making false declarations, can result in court imposed fines of up to twice the taxes evaded, plus jail time. In addition, taxpayers still have to pay the taxes owed and all other civil penalties and interest imposed by the CRA.

The CRA's **Voluntary Disclosures Program** is available to taxpayers who want to correct their tax affairs before the CRA begins any audit action or investigation. If you make a full disclosure before we start any compliance action, you may only have to pay the taxes owing plus interest, but you will not have to pay any penalties nor face prosecution in the courts.

For information on **CRA investigations, convictions**, or coming forward to correct inaccurate information through the **Voluntary Disclosures Program**, visit www.cra.gc.ca.

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