

## The Canada Revenue Agency succeeds in reducing the Paperwork Burden for Businesses

Ottawa, Ontario, March 31, 2009... The Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture), is pleased with the actions that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is taking to reduce the paperwork burden on Canadian business.

“The CRA is committed to helping Canadians business to more efficiently meet government administrative and legislative requirements. In these difficult economic times, it is more important than ever that the paperwork burden on businesses be reduced to limit the impacts on both profits and productivity,” said Minister Blackburn. “Canadian businesses are a vital part of local, provincial and national economies, and we want to support them by allowing them to invest more of their time in managing and growing their business.”

In 2007, the Government announced the 20 percent **Paperwork Burden Reduction Initiative** as part of a coordinated plan across the federal government. Through this initiative, the CRA has identified over 8,000 obsolete or non-essential information obligations imposed on business. The elimination of these obligations, when implemented, will reduce the paperwork burden on business by 24.2 percent.

The CRA has committed to making it easier to do business by reducing the frequency of tax remittance and filing requirements and by allowing Ontario corporate taxpayers to file harmonized federal and provincial corporation tax returns. As part of this continued commitment, CRA introduced My Business Account to allow business owners secure and convenient online access to their accounts, and developed indicators to measure the small business compliance burden.

Through its own burden reduction measures and in support of the Paper Burden Reduction Initiative, the CRA continues to liaise with key stakeholders to continue to find innovative ways of making complying with Income- and Excise-related legislation easier for businesses.

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