



News release

Paying the correct amounts to eligible taxpayers

Ottawa, Ontario, April 22, 2009 . . . The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) issued benefit payments worth \$16 billion to over 11 million Canadians last year. To keep the system fair for all taxpayers, the CRA works to ensure that benefit payments are issued to only those eligible to receive them and that they are in the correct amounts.

The CRA's validation process includes reviews to ensure eligible individuals are issued the benefits they are entitled to receive. In 2007-2008, more than 253,000 benefit accounts were reviewed and 65% were adjusted. Adjustments uncovered almost \$195 million in benefit and credit overpayments.

Validation-related adjustments were also made for individuals and families who were not being issued the full amount of benefits they were entitled to receive. In 2007-2008, adjustments favouring benefit recipients amounted to \$81 million.

During a review, the CRA may ask recipients to validate factors that affect both their eligibility to receive benefits and their benefit amount. In some situations, not providing the requested information will cause the CRA to interrupt, recalculate, or stop benefit payments.

Recipients and their spouses or common-law partners must each file a tax return every year, even if they have no income to report. Benefit recipients should contact the CRA if:

- they move, even if their payments are direct deposited;
- their marital status changes;
- their residency/citizenship status changes; or
- the child on whose behalf they received benefits is no longer in their care.

It's always a good idea to keep your records on hand. This makes it easier to respond and will help you explain your tax situation to the CRA if you do not agree with a decision or reassessment.

For more information about benefits, go to www.cra.gc.ca/benefits.

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