



News release

Tracking down non-filers

Ottawa, Ontario, April 27, 2009 . . . The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) cautions taxpayers that they must meet their tax obligations or face the consequences.

While the vast majority of Canadians follow the rules and pay their taxes, there will always be individuals and organizations who, for a variety of reasons, fail to comply with the tax laws. The CRA works to ensure a level playing field for all Canadians by enforcing the requirements of Canada's tax system.

In 2007-2008:

- The CRA obtained over 760,000 individual and corporate returns and more than 8,600 goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) registrations from taxpayers who had failed to file their income tax returns or register for GST/HST as required. This resulted in a fiscal impact of \$2.4 billion.
- The CRA initiated legal actions that resulted in the conviction of 1,296 taxpayers who failed to file their income tax returns in order to avoid paying taxes.
- In 666,700 instances where employers failed to withhold, report, and remit source deductions and taxable benefits, the CRA took action that identified non-compliance of \$1.4 billion.

The CRA's **Voluntary Disclosures Program** is available to taxpayers who want to correct their tax affairs and come clean. If you make a full disclosure before the CRA starts any compliance or enforcement action, you only have to pay the taxes owing plus interest. You will not have to pay any penalties or face prosecution in the courts.

For information on requirements for **individuals** or **employers**, or on **voluntary disclosure**, visit the CRA's Web site at www.cra.gc.ca and select a letter in the "A to Z index."

For news releases on convictions for failing to file tax returns or for tax evasion, go to www.cra.gc.ca/convictions.

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