



News release

Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn announces the winners of the YouTube video contest

Ottawa, Ontario, June 22, 2009. . . The Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture and Agri-Food), is pleased to announce the winners of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) YouTube video contest called “Underground Economy: Not Your Problem?”

The award for best English language video was granted to David Hall, Steven Shanahan, and Trevor Kai, of Toronto, and Oker Chen, of Vancouver, for their video called *You, Me, a Butterfly and the CRA*. The award for best French language video was awarded to Simon Lavictoire, of Saint-Georges, Quebec, for his video called *Économie Clandestine*.

“The Government of Canada recognizes that the underground economy is a significant problem with serious consequences for taxpayers, businesses, and our economy,” said Minister Blackburn. “The winning videos deliver strong messages on the negative impact of the underground economy.”

The videos show that those who participate in the underground economy are avoiding their tax responsibilities at the expense of all Canadians. Participation in the underground economy places an unfair burden on law-abiding businesses and individuals, and reduces the amount of money available for important government programs such as health care, education, and the environment.

Since the contest opened in January 2009, 28 videos were submitted to the CRA’s YouTube channel. A CRA selection committee determined the winners based on video quality; creativity and how effectively the videos showed the impact of the underground economy on society; and the risks involved to individuals and businesses who participate in the underground economy. The videos may be integrated in future outreach and education initiatives to inform Canadians and help deter participation in the underground economy.

“We received many entertaining and thought-provoking videos,” said Minister Blackburn. “I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who participated for taking this opportunity to have their say about the underground economy.”

The winning videos and photographs from the awards presentation will soon be posted on the CRA Web site, at www.cra.gc.ca/contest.

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