



News release

Minister Ashfield reminds Canadians to take advantage of available tax credits

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, January 24, 2011... The Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of National Revenue, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway; Dr. Colin Carrie, MP for Oshawa; Ms. Kelly Block, MP for Saskatoon–Rosetown–Biggar; and Mr. James Rajotte, MP for Edmonton–Leduc wrapped up visits to communities in Oshawa, Saskatoon, and Dartmouth to remind Canadians to take advantage of the tax relief measures available to them.

"This government is committed to reducing the tax burden on Canadians," said Minister Ashfield. "Tax relief measures are an essential part of the Government's effort to stimulate the economy."

In Whitby, Ontario, on January 20, Dr. Carrie spoke to students at Durham College about the tax credits that benefit students and consulted with them in a roundtable to hear what they have to say. Students can claim various non-refundable credits and deductions such as tuition, education and textbook amounts, and the student loan interest amount. In addition, employed tradespersons and apprentice mechanics can deduct the cost of their tools used to earn employment income. The deduction lets them claim up to \$500 toward the cost of new tools. "Students need to know this information," said Will Mackie, a student attending the event at Durham College. "It is very expensive to buy tools and equipment, and any assistance is appreciated."

In Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on January 21, Ms. Block and Mr. Rajotte participated in an economic consultation hosted by the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce to discuss the impact of the Government's initiatives on their region. Ms. Block also visited the Saskatoon Transit Authority to promote the public transit amount, which lets Canadians claim the total amount paid for public transit passes. "Canadians need to find savings wherever they can," said Ms. Block. "Taking public transit can make a difference in your personal budget, and it does well for the environment."

"Our government has implemented close to 120 tax reduction measures to reduce the tax burden on Canadians," said Minister Ashfield. Canadians can take advantage of these credits and deductions by filing their tax returns. Each year, about 65% of Canadians who file their returns get a refund.

- For more information on credits and benefits for individuals and businesses, go to www.cra.gc.ca/taxcuts.
- For more information on how Canadians can get ready to file their tax return this year, go to www.cra.gc.ca/getready.

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