



February 2018

Dear Client(s):

Please find enclosed our personal income tax checklist for the 2017 taxation year. Please use this checklist as a guide to assemble the information we will need for each of your family members for whom we prepare an income tax return.

Please visit our website at www.collinsblay.com. It contains relevant income tax information of interest to you.

Among income tax changes for 2017 please note the following matters of importance:

- The federal children's fitness tax credit has been eliminated. The federal and Ontario children's arts credit are eliminated for 2017. **Please do not submit receipts for your child's sports, fitness or arts activities to us.** Summer day camp or PA day camp costs may still be eligible for child care expenses, so please continue to submit these receipts.
- The amount that persons 18 years of age or older in 2017 can contribute to a Tax Free Savings Account in 2017 remains at \$5,500.
- The Ontario Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit has been eliminated for 2017 and subsequent years. The federal Home Accessibility Tax Credit introduced in 2016 remains in place. The non-refundable credit is equal to 15% of up to \$10,000 of permanent improvements made to dwellings occupied by persons over 65 years of age in 2017 that improve accessibility and safety of the dwellings for seniors.
- The federal textbook and education amount (tax credit) is eliminated for 2017 and subsequent years. The federal tax credit for tuition and certain examination fees remains in place. Ontario tuition, textbook and education tax credits are eliminated for studies commencing after September 4, 2017. Ontario residents on December 31, 2017 are able to carry unused credits forward to future taxation years.
- The federal public transit pass credit is eliminated for travel after June 30, 2017. **Please only provide us with receipts for transit passes up to this date.**
- If you were 65 years of age or older on December 31, 2016 and a resident of Ontario, you may qualify for the new Seniors' Public Transit Tax Credit. Transit services provided by the Government of Ontario or Ontario municipalities qualify provided the amount paid is evidenced by a receipt. Cash fares do not qualify. The maximum credit for 2017 is 15% of the cost of public transit for travel after June 30, 2017 to a maximum of \$225 (maximum transit cost of \$1,500). The credit increases to a maximum of \$450 in 2018 (maximum transit cost of \$3,000).

Privacy legislation requires us to obtain approval from all family members 18 years or older if income tax returns are to be picked up by or discussed with another family member or with a third party such as a banker. **Please complete our Email & Privacy Form if you wish to authorize us to release your confidential information to someone else or if you wish to continue receiving general information emails, such as our budget updates, from us. If we already have this information from you and you do NOT wish to make changes then you do not need to complete a new form.**

If you need further assistance while assembling your 2017 income tax information, please call us.

Collins Blay LLP