

GST/HST Credit Application for Individuals Who Become Residents of Canada

Is this form for you?

Use this form to apply for the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit in the year you became a resident of Canada.

What is the GST/HST credit?

The **GST** is a tax that you pay on most goods and services sold or provided in Canada. In some provinces, the GST has been harmonized with the provincial sales tax and is called the HST.

The GST/HST credit helps individuals and families with low or modest incomes offset all or part of the GST or HST that they pay.

Are you eligible for the credit?

You must be a resident of Canada to get the GST/HST credit.

If you are age 19 or older, you are eligible for the credit.

If you are going to turn 19 before April 1 in the year after you became a resident of Canada, you can apply for the credit now. Generally, you have to be 19 or older to get payments, but you can be younger than 19 to apply.

If you are under age 19, you are eligible only if:

- you have (or had) a spouse or common-law partner; or
- you are (or were) a parent and you live (or lived) with your child.

Are you a resident of Canada?

We consider you to be a resident of Canada when you establish sufficient residential ties in Canada. Residential ties include:

- a home in Canada;
- a spouse or common-law partner and/or dependants who move to Canada to live with you;
- personal property in Canada, such as a car or furniture; and
- social ties in Canada.

Other ties that may be relevant include a Canadian driver's licence, Canadian bank accounts or credit cards, and health insurance with a Canadian province or territory.

If you got a letter from us about your residency status, include a copy of it with this application.

If you are not sure if you are a resident of Canada, complete Form NR74, Determination of Residency Status (Entering Canada), and include it with this application. We will give you an opinion about your residency status. To get Form NR74, visit our Web site at www.cra.gc.ca/forms or call 1-800-959-2221.

Do you have a spouse or common-law partner?

You can get the GST/HST credit for your spouse or common-law partner as long as he or she is also a resident of Canada at the beginning of the month in which a payment is scheduled. Complete the section called "Information about your spouse or common-law partner" on the first page of the application form.

If you have a spouse or common-law partner, only one of you can get the GST/HST credit for the payments issued from July of the year you become residents of Canada to April of the following year. No matter which one of you applies, the credit will be the same.

Married

You are married and have a spouse if you are legally married.

Living common law

You have a common-law partner and are living common law if you live and have a relationship with a person of the opposite or same sex who is not your spouse, and as soon as any of the following applies. He or she:

- is the natural or adoptive parent (legal or in fact) of your child;
- has been living and having a relationship with you for at least 12 continuous months (status starts after the 12 months); or
- lived with you previously as your spouse or common-law partner for at least 12 continuous months.

Under proposed changes, the last condition will no longer exist. The effect of this proposed change is that a person (other than the parent of your child) will be your common-law partner only after your current relationship with that person has lasted at least 12 continuous months. This proposed change will apply to 2001 and later years when it becomes law.

In this definition, "12 continuous months" includes any period that you were separated for less than 90 days because of a breakdown in the relationship.

Separated

You are separated when you start living separate and apart from your spouse or common-law partner because of a breakdown in the relationship for a period of at least 90 days and you have not reconciled.

Do you have any children under age 19?

You can get the credit for each of your children if all of the following apply at the beginning of the month in which a payment is scheduled. The child:

- is your child, or is dependent on you or your spouse or common-law partner for support;
- has never been a parent of a child he or she lived with;
- lives with you;
- has never had a spouse or common-law partner; and
- is under age 19.

Note

Your child should apply for his or her own GST/HST credit (by completing a copy of the attached form) if he or she is under age 19 and:

- has (or had) a spouse or common-law partner; or
- is (or was) a parent and lives (or lived) with his or her child.

You will have to complete Form RC66, Canada Child Tax Benefit Application, to register your children for the GST/HST credit. To get this form, visit our Web site at www.cra.gc.ca/forms or call 1-800-959-2221.

How do we calculate the credit?

We base your GST/HST credit on your and your spouse or common-law partner's world income (if he or she is a resident of Canada) and on the number of children you have. World income is income from all sources inside and outside Canada.

If you became a resident of Canada:

• before April 1, you could get payments for April, July, and October of the year you became a resident of Canada, and for January and April of the following year. Note

In order to get the payment for April of the year you became a resident of Canada, you must apply for it in Step 3 of the section called "Statement of income" on the application form.

- after March 31 and before July 1, you could get payments for July and October of the year you became a resident of Canada, and for January and April of the following year.
- after June 30 and before October 1, you could get payments for October of the year you became a resident of Canada, and for January and April of the following year.
- after September 30, you could get payments for January and April of the year after you became a resident of Canada.

We will send you a Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) Credit notice to tell you how much you will get, if any, and how we calculated the amount.

Related provincial programs

The Canada Revenue Agency administers the following provincial programs that are related to the GST/HST credit:

- Newfoundland Harmonized Sales Tax Credit;
- Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors' Benefit: and
- Saskatchewan Sales Tax Credit.

You do not need to apply separately for these payments. If you qualify, they will be combined with your GST/HST credit payments.

After you apply, should you contact us?

Call 1-800-959-1953 to tell us about any changes described below, as well as the date they happened or will happen:

- you move (or your payments may be interrupted);
- you get your payments by direct deposit and your banking information changes;
- the number of children in your care changes; or
- you or your spouse or common-law partner is no longer a resident of Canada.

You also have to tell us about any changes in your marital status. Complete Form RC65, Marital Status Change, or tell us about your new status and the date of the change in a letter. Send Form RC65 or your letter to one of the tax offices listed below. You can get the form by visiting our Web site at www.cra.gc.ca/forms or by calling 1-800-959-2221.

When a child for whom you get the credit turns 19, you do not need to contact us. We will automatically reduce your credit. However, the child should apply for his or her own credit.

Do you need more information?

For information about the GST/HST credit or to get pamphlet RC4210, GST/HST Credit, visit our Web site at www.cra.gc.ca/benefits. You can also get the pamphlet by calling 1-800-959-2221 or get information by calling 1-800-959-1953.

Tax office addresses

St. John's Tax Centre PO Box 12071 Stn A St. John's NL A1B 3Z1

Summerside Tax Centre 102-275 Pope Road Summerside PE C1N 5Z7

Jonquière Tax Centre PO Box 1900 Stn LCD

Jonquière QC G7S 5J1

Sudbury Tax Services Office PO Box 20000 Stn A Sudbury ON P3A 5C1

Winnipeg Tax Centre PO Box 14000 Stn Main Winnipeg MB R3C 3M2

Surrey Tax Centre 9755 King George Highway Surrey BC V3T 5E1

Shawinigan-Sud Tax Centre PO Box 3000 Stn Main Shawinigan-Sud QC G9N 7S6 Agence des douanes

GST/HST CREDIT APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO BECOME RESIDENTS OF CANADA

To apply for the GST/HST credit for the year that you became a resident of Canada, complete this application and send it to one of the tax offices listed on the attached information sheet. If you have a spouse or common-law partner, only one of you can apply for the credit.

Do you have a social insurance number (SIN)?

You need a SIN to apply for the credit. For information, or to get an application for a SIN, visit the Social Development Canada (SDC) Web site at www.sdc.gc.ca or contact your SDC office. You will find the address and telephone number of your nearest SDC office on the SDC Web site or in the government section of your telephone book.

Do you have any children age 18 or younger?

If you do, you need to complete Form RC66, Canada Child Tax Benefit Application, to register your children for the GST/HST credit. To get this form, visit our Web site at www.cra.gc.ca/forms or call 1-800-959-2221.

After we process your application

We will send you a Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) Credit notice to tell you how much you will get, if any, and how we calculated the amount.

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