

# News Release

## CCRA responds to B.C. residents affected by forest fires

Ottawa, September 4, 2003... Elinor Caplan, Minister of National Revenue said today that the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) will readily apply the fairness provisions to help the residents and businesses of British Columbia who may experience difficulties fulfilling their tax obligations due to the effect of the province-wide forest fires.

“The Government recognizes the severity of the fires’ impact on the residents of B.C. and is sensitive to the difficulties that individuals and businesses may encounter during this time,” said Minister Caplan. “As we have done in the past, CCRA will continue to provide relief to clients in extraordinary circumstances by giving special consideration to clients who fail to meet their tax obligations because of the forest fires.”

The fairness provisions give CCRA the flexibility to use a balanced and common-sense approach to help Canadians in resolving problems that arise through no fault of their own. Each situation is reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with possible relief measures such as flexible payment schedules, waived penalties and interest, or extended due dates. Individuals who have questions or concerns regarding tax matters can call the enquiries service at **1-800-959-8281**, while businesses can contact the Business Window line at **1-800-959-5525**.

In addition to the fairness provisions, Minister Caplan reassures B.C. residents that all benefit payments will be delivered on time. Residents expecting Canada Child Tax Benefit payments, GST credits, or any other benefit payments, can visit the nearest postal office that is offering service to pick up their payment. Residents will be required to show one piece of photo identification in order to receive their cheque. Furthermore, B.C. residents have been asked to tune into their local television and radio stations for updated information on the postal offices offering services in their area.

### For more information, contact:

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