TAX UPDATE 2023 – ELECTRONIC FILING AND PAYMENTS

Several provisions that better facilitate CRA's ability to **operate digitally** have been included in **Bill C-47**, which received **Royal Assent** on June 23, 2023. These measures were previously included in Budget 2021, and February 4, 2022 and August 9, 2022 draft legislation and explanatory notes.

Correspondence with businesses

The default method of correspondence for businesses that use CRA's My Business Account portal is changed to electronic only. This default on all communications is linked to a business number. The person or partnership can opt out of the default of electronic communication; however, their request must be filed at least 30 days before the notice or communication is sent, so communications may be sent electronically for several weeks after the taxpayer requests these be sent by mail. The process for submitting requests to change the default to physical mail is to be set by CRA. This measure is effective as of Royal Assent (June 22, 2023).

The legislation also provides that communications sent in this manner are deemed received at the time they are made available. It does **not require** that **CRA send any specific communications** electronically. CRA has not yet announced when or whether they will begin sending communications electronically by default.

Notices of assessment (NOA) for individuals

 An individual's NOA will be deemed received when **delivered electronically** only where the **individual** has **authorized** that notices may be made in this manner and has not revoked that authorization. This amendment is effective on **January 1**, **2024**.

Electronic payments

As of January 1, 2024, all **payments** or **remittances above \$10,000** will be required to be made **electronically**, through services offered by financial institutions, or by any means authorized by the Minister **unless** this **cannot reasonably be done**. A \$100 penalty will apply to each payment not made in this manner where required.

Electronic filing thresholds

Several measures have been enacted that will **limit** the ability to **file paper returns**.

 Certain **information returns** must be filed **electronically** where **more than 5** information **returns** (reduced from 50) of a **particular type** are required for a calendar **year**. A penalty of \$125 will apply where between 6 and 50 slips are filed on paper. Numerous information slips are included (Regulation 205.1(1)), such as forms NR4, T5007, T5018, T4A-NR, **T5**, T5013, **T4A**, **T4** and **T3**. This provision is effective January 1, 2024.

Professional tax preparers will be required to file **personal**, **corporate** and **trust tax returns electronically**, with the **annual limit** for paper returns exempt from penalties reduced to **five** (from ten), effective January 1, 2024.

The mandatory electronic filing thresholds for returns of corporations under the Income Tax Act and of GST/HST registrants (other than for charities or selected listed financial institutions) under the Excise Tax Act will be removed, resulting in **most corporations** and **GST/HST registrants** being **required** to **file electronically**. This measure is effective for taxation years and GST/HST reporting periods commencing after 2023.

1	Information returns – T4A and T5
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3	Issuers of T4A (Statement of Pension, Retirement, Annuity and Other Income) and T5 (Statement of Investment Income)
4	information returns can provide them electronically without having to also issue a paper copy and without the taxpayer
5	having to authorize the issuer to do so. This measure is effective retroactively for information returns sent after 2021.
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7	Electronic signatures
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9	Electronic signatures are permitted on Forms T183, T183CORP and T183TRUST (which authorize electronic filing of tax
10	returns); T2200 (Declaration of Conditions of Employment); RC71 (Statement of Discounting Transaction) and RC72
11	(Notice of the Actual Amount of the Refund of Tax). This measure is effective as of Royal Asset (June 22, 2023).
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