

# The Conversation

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## Teaching Children About Money

Teaching our children about money (budgeting, credit, savings and so on) will help to develop habits that will have a lasting impact throughout their lives.



Below are a few fun and educational activities that may help to get your children interested in learning about personal money management.

For more resources go to: [www.RussHiebert.ca](http://www.RussHiebert.ca)

### Ages 2-4

Make paper “pennies” with your child and mark each one as one cent. Give your child a set number of paper pennies to use to trade for things they want to play with or use. For example, if they want to play with blocks, they have to give you one penny.

### Ages 5-9

Are you looking for a fun and interactive way to teach your children about money? *My Savings Quest* is an online and free activity that does just that! Check out: [www.mysavingsquest.com](http://www.mysavingsquest.com)

### Ages 10-13

Children LOVE to have their own savings account. If your child doesn't have one yet, take time to open one and consider contributing a few dollars to get them started. This is a great opportunity to get them in the healthy habit of saving.

### Ages 14 & UP

*The City* is a learning program developed by the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC) and the British Columbia Securities Commission (BCSC). It teaches young people financial skills that they can carry with them throughout their lives. [www.themoneybelt.ca](http://www.themoneybelt.ca)

## Financial Elder Abuse

Financial abuse is the most common form of elder abuse in Canada.

Financial abuse can happen at any time, but it will often start after a health crisis or after the death of a spouse or close friend.

Financial abuse is the illegal or unauthorized use of someone else's money or property. It includes pressuring someone for money or property.

Financial abuse can be difficult to identify or recognize. It is often a pattern rather than a single event, happening over a long period of time.

Some types of financial abuse are very clearly theft or fraud. For example, if someone cashes your pension cheque and keeps all or part of the money without your permission, or if they misuse a power of attorney to take money from your bank account for themselves, they are stealing from you. Other examples of financial abuse are harder to put a name to. These can include pressuring, forcing or tricking you into:

- Lending or giving away money, property or possessions.
- Selling or moving from your home.
- Making or changing your will or power of attorney.
- Signing legal or financial documents that you don't understand.

Abusers are usually people who have a close connection to you. They can include your spouse, son or daughter, other relative, friend, neighbor, or caregiver.

Protect yourself:

- Keep your financial and personal information in a safe place;
- Have an enduring or continuing power of attorney prepared appointing someone you can trust to look after you, so that even if you are ill and unable to look after yourself, your finances will be protected from others who might try to take advantage of you;
- Keep a record of money you give away and note whether it is a loan or a gift;
- For major decisions involving your home or other property, get your own legal advice before signing documents;
- Be very cautious if you open a joint bank account – the other person can take away all the money without asking; and
- Make an effort to keep in touch with a variety of friends and family so you don't become isolated.

For more information, visit [www.seniors.gc.ca](http://www.seniors.gc.ca)

## Preparing for Post Secondary Education

Whether it's choosing a program, deciding on an institution or figuring out how you are going to pay the tuition, preparing for university can be a stressful time in a student's life. But it doesn't have to be. There are many great resources available that inform, equip and encourage students to pursue their higher education goals. Below are a few links to help get you started.

[www.studyincanada.com](http://www.studyincanada.com)

[www.campusstarter.com](http://www.campusstarter.com)

For more information go to: [www.RussHiebert.ca](http://www.RussHiebert.ca)



### Paying for Higher Education

Financing your education:

[www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca)

Local Scholarships:

[www.sd36.bc.ca/scholarships](http://www.sd36.bc.ca/scholarships)

Guide for BC students:

[www.bcscholarships.ca](http://www.bcscholarships.ca)

Student Loans (National/Prov):

[www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc)

### Which School is Right for You?

These sites are full of comprehensive information on colleges and universities across the country:

[www.schoolfinder.com](http://www.schoolfinder.com)

[www.schoolsincanada.com](http://www.schoolsincanada.com)

## Special Edition!

Pages 2 & 3  
**TAX GUIDE**  
LOWER TAXES TO HELP YOU



## Are you in debt?

Did you know that the average Canadian spends \$1.48 for every \$1.00 they earn? A startling fact when you stop to think about the impact debt has on ones individual and family life.



Today, few of us have ready cash available to go to school, buy a house or car, put our children into extracurricular activities, pay for an emergency, retire, and the list goes on. So, we borrow through bank loans, family members, financial companies, student loans and credit cards.

**“The average Canadian spends \$1.48 for every \$1.00 they earn”**

Whether your debt is small or large, consumer or otherwise, there is help!

Providing useful information, tips and tools, the following are just a few of the many resources available to help get you started on the path to financial freedom.

- [Credit Counselling Canada](http://www.creditcounsellingcanada.ca) (advice, counselling, and more) Surrey: 604-527-8999
- Making Smart Financial Choices and getting out of debt: [www.mymoneycouch.ca](http://www.mymoneycouch.ca) [www.nomoredebts.org](http://www.nomoredebts.org)

## Deduct Medical Expenses

Costly medical expenses can be difficult to fit into any family budget, especially as we grow older.

Thankfully, Conservatives are helping you and your family meet your health care needs by providing a deduction for medical expenses.

An expense is generally eligible to be claimed under this tax credit if it's directly related to a disability or a medical condition.

You can claim medical expenses paid in any 12-month period ending in 2010 and not claimed in 2009.



## Goods and Services Tax/ Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) Credit

Conservatives know that the tax burden on Canadians is too high. That's why we're committed to lowering taxes and giving Canadians a break every way we can.

The GST/HST credit is a tax-free quarterly payment that helps individuals and families with modest incomes offset all or part of the GST/HST that they pay.

But don't forget, to receive the GST/HST credit, you have to apply for it, even if you received it last year.

## Public Transit Tax Credit

Canadians who choose public transit are making a choice that's good for the wallet and for the environment.

Our Conservative Government believes public transit users deserve extra help, which is why we delivered the Public Transit Tax Credit.

Transit users can claim a non-refundable tax credit of 15 per cent of the cost of their monthly or yearly public transit passes.

This means that if you buy transit passes that cost \$85 per month, you could save over \$150 per year. That's like getting almost two months free!

Retain your receipts as proof of purchase because whether you're going to work, taking your children to daycare, or heading to the movies, our Public Transit Tax Credit will make it more affordable to get you where you need to go while helping our environment at the same time.



# TAX GUIDE 2011

## Lower Taxes for Home Buyers

### First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit

The fees associated with purchasing your very first home can really add up. To help Canadians with these costs, our Conservative Government has introduced the First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit.

The First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit will allow Canadians to save up to \$750 on qualifying homes purchased after January 27, 2009.

The First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit is also available to existing homeowners who are eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) who purchase a more accessible or functional home to better suit their needs, or for the benefit of a DTC-eligible person who is related to the individual purchasing the home.

### Home Buyers' Plan

For many first-time home buyers or builders, saving for a down payment can be the most challenging part,

especially while recovering from the global recession. To help Canadians saving for their first big purchase, our Conservative Government raised the amount Canadians can withdraw from their Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) for a down payment on their first home.

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, our Conservative Government increased the maximum Canadians can withdraw from the RRSP for a home purchase to \$25,000 with respect to withdrawals made after January 27, 2009. Through these important actions, our Conservative Government is helping Canadians realize their dream of buying a new home.



## Lower Taxes for Families

### Universal Child Care Benefit

Being a parent is about making choices. Our Conservative Government believes that, when it comes to children, parents know best. That's why we created the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB).

The UCCB provides families with \$100 per month for each child under the age of 6. That's \$1,200 per child, per year.

The UCCB allows parents to decide what is best for their kids. Rather than try to apply a 'one size fits all' approach, the UCCB lets parents choose. Whether that choice is daycare, staying with a relative, or having Mom or Dad stay home, the decision rests with parents, as it should.



*Russ goes door to door to hear from local families.*

### Children's Fitness Tax Credit

Our Conservative Government is taking action to help families with children meet their goals. At the same time, we are working to help parents teach their kids leadership, sportsmanship and healthy lifestyles. Through the Children's Fitness Tax Credit, our Conservative Government is helping more parents enrol their kids in sports and fitness programs.

### Caregiver Amount

Caring for a loved one who is dependent on you can be challenging both emotionally and financially. That's why our Conservative Government is providing Canadians with the Caregiver Amount.

If at any time in 2010 you (either alone or with another person) maintained a residence where you and the person you care for lived (a spouse or common-law partner is not considered your dependant for this purpose), you may be able to claim a maximum amount of \$4,223.

### Canada Child Tax Benefit and National Child Benefit Supplement

Low and middle-income families are getting a boost from our Conservative Government's increases to the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBs) and the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB).

These increases are resulting in more savings for those families who, in the past, would have just missed the eligibility mark. For example, a low-income family with two children can bring in up to \$436 in additional savings. A middle-income family with two children - \$76. Even if you feel your net income is too high, you should still apply.

### Deduct Child Care Expenses

Caring for a child is never easy, especially while juggling other commitments like work or school. That's why our Conservative Government is providing parents with the ability to deduct child care expenses from your income. These are amounts either you or another person paid to have someone look after an eligible child so that you or the other person could: earn income from employment; operate a business either alone or as an active partner; attend school; or conduct research.

### The Child Disability Benefit & The Registered Disability Savings Program

Since taking office in 2006, our Conservative Government not only increased the Child Disability Benefit for low and moderate-income families, but worked to ensure more families could be eligible for it. We also created the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). Like the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), this action by our Government provides Canadian families with a new option to save for their children's future.

**To check for eligibility criteria  
and to learn more about any one  
of the tax savings listed in  
"The Conversation" call:  
1-800-959-8281 or visit:  
[www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca).**

# Helping You Maximize Your Tax Savings

Working Income Tax Benefit  
For too long, many

## Lower Taxes for Working Canadians

Canadians who relied on social assistance faced big challenges in joining the workforce. Landing a job could often cost low-income Canadians both higher taxes and reduced income support. This meant that Canadians who found a job could end up with less money in their pockets than before they found a job.

Our Conservative Government is taking action for workers through the Working Income Tax Benefit (WITB). This benefit is a refundable tax credit that supplements the earnings of low-income workers to ensure they aren't penalized for getting a job. What's more, for low-income working Canadians with a disability who face even larger barriers to workforce participation, WITB provides an additional disability supplement.

### Lower Taxes for Small Business Owners, Farmers and Fishermen

When a family farm, small business or fishing enterprise passes from one generation to the next, the property or shares are subject to Capital Gains Tax. In years previous, the first \$500,000 of the value was tax-free.

Our Conservative Government is helping small business owners, farmers and fishermen keep their businesses in the family by increasing this exemption to \$750,000. By increasing the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption, our Conservative Government is taking real action to help keep family businesses where they belong: in the family.

### Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit

For some employers, hiring new employees and apprentices is a challenge. However, apprentices depend upon these valuable work

experiences in order to learn a new trade. For businesses that are hoping to make the most of every dollar while continuing to employ trades people in training, our

Conservative Government introduced the Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit.

Employers who employ an eligible apprentice in a skilled trade in the first two years of an apprenticeship contract (registered with the federal, provincial, or territorial government) can be eligible to receive a non-refundable tax credit equivalent to 10 per cent of the salaries and wages paid to the apprentice. This can translate into tax savings for an employer of up to \$2,000 per eligible apprentice.

A complete list of eligible apprentice trades can be found at: [www.red-seal.ca](http://www.red-seal.ca).



Russ with local apprentices.

### Deduction for Trade Tools

Construction and trade workers need tools to carry out their jobs each and every day. But often these hard-working Canadians have to pay for these expenses up front and out of their own pockets. That's why our Conservative Government has introduced a tax deduction on tools that will help these workers save money this tax year.

Construction and trade workers work hard for their money so our Conservative Government is working hard to help them save on their taxes.

### Meal Expenses of Long-Haul Truck Drivers

When your job includes travelling Canada's roads, extra expenses will occur. From meals to gas, it can really add up. In general, the Canadian tax system limits business-related meal, entertainment, and other expenses to be deductible only up to 50 per cent.

Now, our Conservative Government has raised the deductible portion of meal expenses to 75 per cent for 2010 and it will go up again to 80 per cent for 2011. Long-haul truck drivers are getting more money back in their pockets for their time spent on Canada's roads.

Our Conservative Government is delivering real results for hardworking people in Canada.

## Lower Taxes for Seniors

### Doubling the Pension Income Amount

Canadian seniors have worked hard and paid their dues. That's why our Conservative Government is delivering real tax savings to help seniors keep more money in their pockets, where it belongs.

Not only have seniors paid taxes, they've also saved for retirement. Years ago, the Government of Canada introduced a non-refundable pension income credit to apply to the first \$1,000 of eligible pension income. A lot has changed since then, which is why we've increased the maximum amount of eligible pension income that could be claimed to \$2,000. This results in even more savings that will make a real difference for pensioners.

### Increasing the Age Amount

Canadian seniors have worked hard to prepare for their retirement. That's why our Conservative Government increased the Age Amount, helping low and middle-income seniors keep more money in their own bank accounts.

The Age Amount helps seniors aged 65 and over claim up to \$6,446 in allowable income, saving seniors as much as \$961 on their taxes this year. Since elected, our Government increased this allowable amount by \$2,000, providing even more support to Canadian seniors.

### Pension Income Splitting

To help ease the tax burden on Canadian pensioners, our Conservative Government introduced Pension Income Splitting. Our current tax system generally has each individual Canadian paying taxes on their full income earned. Pension Income Splitting allows any Canadian resident who receives qualifying pension income to allocate to their spouse (or common-law partner) with whom they reside, up to one-half of that income. In doing so, a pensioner and their family can dramatically reduce their tax load.

### Increasing the Age Limit for Converting RRSPs to RRIFs

Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP) provides one of the best opportunities for Canadians to save for the future. Since RRSP contributions are not taxable, they are an ideal way to plan for retirement. However, some Canadians are restricted by the way RRSPs are structured.

Even though they choose to continue working past 69, they have been required to convert their RRSP into a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) and begin making withdrawals.

Our Conservative Government is taking action for Canadians nearing retirement. We have increased the age limit for converting RRSPs to RRIFs from 69 to 71. Now, more Canadians will have the freedom to choose when they convert their RRSPs. We are delivering tax savings and choice for Canadian seniors.

### Hiebert Hosts Two Successful Seniors Information Sessions



Russ held a Preparing for Retirement Session in October with over 150 attendees.



In January Russ held a Seniors Info Session with representatives from CRA and Service Canada.

"I want to make sure that constituents receive all the benefits they are entitled to, and that they are able to maximize the value of their retirement income and savings with respect to Canadian tax laws" said Hiebert.

That's why this past October and January, Russ hosted seminars, to assist seniors and those approaching retirement, increase their knowledge of the social programs and tax benefits available to them. Topics in the sessions included: CPP, OAS and more.

### Lower Taxes for Students Textbook Tax Credit

The costs of post-secondary education can be challenging for Canadian students and their parents. Along with tuition and living expenses, textbooks are a necessary part of post-secondary learning. Our Conservative Government is taking action to help offset the cost of the post-secondary education with the textbook tax credit.

The Textbook Tax Credit is another way that our Conservative Government is helping Canadian students achieve their dreams and their potential.

### Scholarship & Bursary Exemption

Canada's students work hard to earn good grades while paying for their schooling. Our Conservative Government is helping ease the tax burden on hardworking students that achieve strong results by exempting scholarships, fellowships and bursaries from their income.

Getting an education shouldn't be taxing. Our Conservative Government is helping students and their families make post-secondary education more affordable and more attainable.

## Listening To You

I recently sent out a community-wide survey seeking your thoughts on a variety of federal issues. Below are a sampling of the comments I received. Thank you to all who responded.

- “Government should look at income splitting for families with single or low second income. Look at Australia’s immigration policy and adopt it.” -Anonymous
- “Justice system needs to have better ways to deal with repeat offenders. Not necessarily longer jail terms but other options to reduce recidivism. Why do so many get bail in serious crimes while awaiting trial.” - D.P., Surrey
- “We should approach all problems with humanity and compassion. I would like to see our focus on restorative justice and care of children at risk. A healthier environment will give us a healthier population.” - L.P., Surrey
- “Conservatives are doing a great job managing government affairs. Finally I feel the taxpayers voice is being heard.” - R.M., White Rock
- “I heard a rumor there has been a private member’s bill tabled regarding immigrants receiving a pension after only 3 years in the country and the immigrant pension would be greater than OAS and supplement combined. As a 7th generation Canadian with an 80 year old mother a 99 year old grandmother I strongly believe we need to take care of long term citizens first.” - R. & D.C., Surrey  
[NOTE: C-428 is a Liberal bill that reduces the residency requirement for OAS from 10 years to 3 years. I and the Conservative Party oppose the bill. See my statement in the House of Commons on December 15th on the subject: C-428 and Pension Reform.  
[www.rushiebert.ca/multimedia/](http://www.rushiebert.ca/multimedia/)

## A Letter from your MP

Dear Constituent,

As we prepare our income tax forms at this time of year, our personal finances are brought into greater focus. The tax guide included in this issue of the Conversation is designed to help you maximize your tax savings. Past tax guides have met with very positive feedback, and I hope this year’s guide helps you save more of your hard-earned income.

Over the last five years, our Government has been working hard to lower the tax burden on all Canadians. Whether it is the 2% reduction in the HST, the higher personal exemptions, the new tax credits for public transport or children’s sports, or income-splitting for pension income, Canadian families now pay an average of \$3,000 less in federal taxes, annually.

We have also worked to lower taxes for small businesses and corporations, so they can create the jobs and real wealth that allow us to enjoy our high standard of living. Our low tax rates encourage foreign investment in Canada and have also brought some corporate headquarters, like Tim Horton’s, back to Canada. That means even more, high-paying jobs for Canadians.

As you plan your finances for the years ahead, consider taking advantage of Tax Free Savings Accounts. They are offered by all major financial institutions.



As always, please feel free to contact me at anytime with your questions and comments.

Yours Sincerely,

Russ Hiebert  
Member of Parliament  
South Surrey - White Rock - Cloverdale

### Russ Promotes Income Splitting For Families

Spouses can already split their pension income for tax purposes because of changes made by the Conservative Government in the 2007 Budget. Russ Hiebert believes the next step in income tax reduction should be income splitting for families with children. His private members motion supporting this tax cut will be debated and voted upon in Parliament this spring. Contact our office for more details on what income splitting may mean for your family.

## Tax Free Savings Accounts

Canadians have many reasons to save for the future, like a home renovation, retirement or even medical expenses. The Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) can help all Canadians work towards their short- and long-term financial goals.

Our Conservative Government’s TFSA is a flexible, registered savings account that allows Canadians to save for their future. Investment income, including capital gains, earned within the account is not taxed and withdrawals are tax-free.

No matter what your income level, the TFSA can help you save money. Canadians who are 18 years and older can contribute no more than \$5,000 every year, with unused room carried forward.

Whether you’re starting your career, or thinking about retirement, the TFSA is a great way to save money and keep hard-earned dollars in your pocket.

For more information on TFSA’s such as: issuers, administrative procedures, how to establish a TFSA and more go to:

[www.tfsa.gc.ca](http://www.tfsa.gc.ca)

Or contact my community office by phone: 604-542-9495 or email: [info@RussHiebert.ca](mailto:info@RussHiebert.ca).

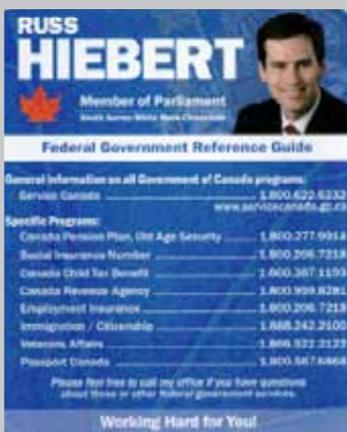


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