



CANADA

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Improvement to online services and red tape reduction to help Canadians save time during tax season

On March 20, 2014, the Honourable Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay, Minister of National Revenue, accompanied by Joyce Bateman, Member of Parliament, Winnipeg South Centre, met with members of the local business community to discuss the Government of Canada's progress on reducing red tape, and the recent improvements that have been made to the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) online services.

As part of the Government's [Red Tape Reduction Action Plan](#), the Government of Canada has launched a number of service enhancements for businesses, including several introduced in Economic Action Plan 2014, which the CRA will implement over the next year:

- In April 2014, the CRA's electronic filing services will be expanded to allow businesses to file amended T2 corporate income tax returns online and representatives for businesses will be able to submit an electronic authorization request to the CRA instead of filing paper forms.
- In October 2014, businesses will be able to update their banking and direct deposit information online, and the first free online option for paying taxes will be available for business owners registered with [My Business Account](#). A detailed payment history for all of their accounts will also be available in one secure and convenient place.
- The Government is revising remittance thresholds for employer source deductions to reduce the maximum number of payments that businesses are required to prepare and submit to the CRA.
- Economic Action Plan 2014 will simplify tax rules for the lifetime capital gains exemption when certain individuals operate both farming and fishing businesses to allow for more consistent treatment.
- The CRA will continue to build partnerships with the small business community as well as provincial and municipal governments on initiatives

such as the CRA's Business Number, the recently announced Liaison Officer Initiative (LOI) pilot project and the proposed Registration of Tax Preparers Program (RTPP), all intended to support taxpayers to more easily manage their tax affairs and "get it right from the start."

Canadians are choosing online filing at tax time

On March 31, 2014, the Honourable Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay, Minister of National Revenue, revealed that more Canadians are filing T1 income tax and benefit returns online than ever before. As of March 24, 2014, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has received over 6.7 million returns, with close to 84% filed electronically, compared to 80% at the same time last year. Electronic filing is quickly becoming the norm, as tax filers discover how convenient, easy, and secure online filing is. Direct Deposit has also increased. So far, 65% of taxpayers getting a refund received it by direct deposit compared to 61% at the same time last year.

T1 Returns received from February 10 to March 24, 2014

Method of Filing	# of returns filed	%
NETFILE	2,156,994	31.78
EFILE	3,515,698	51.80
Total - electronic (NETFILE + EFILE)	5,672,692	83.58
Paper	1,114,592	16.42
Total - all methods	6,787,284	100.00