

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)



The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) ensures that vulnerable Canadians receive the credits and benefits designed to support them.

Since 1971, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has been collaborating with community organizations and their volunteers to help qualified individuals prepare their returns for free.

The CRA will provide

- Training and promotional material
- Tax preparation software
- A dedicated helpline for volunteers
- Space on our website to advertise clinics
- Surplus laptops when available
- Posters

Many tax clinics operate year-round, but most operate during March and April.





CRA provides guidance and support to community organizations, their coordinators, and volunteers.

Community organizations

- Register online at cra.gc.ca/volunteer.
- Host free tax clinics.
- Recruit and coordinate volunteers.
- Keep taxpayer information secure/confidential.
- Ensure volunteers have EFILE or police check.



Volunteers

- Register online at cra.gc.ca/volunteer.
- Affiliate with a community organization if possible
- Get EFILE certification or police check
- Keep taxpayer information secure/confidential

CVITP Eligible Individuals



CVITP volunteers prepare income tax and benefit returns for eligible individuals with modest income, a simple tax situation, and who are not able to prepare and file their return themselves.

Modest income is \$35,000 for individuals, \$45,000 for couples, plus \$2,500 for each dependant.

Includes income/benefits from:

- Employment,
- Pension,
- Disability,
- CCB,
- Employment Insurance,
- Social assistance,
- RRSP,
- Support payments,
- Scholarships, fellowships, bursaries or grants, and
- Interest (under \$1,000)

Does not includes the following:

- self-employed
- employment expenses
- business or rental income and expenses
- capital gains or losses
- bankruptcy
- a tax return for a deceased person



Last year – we saw an increase in the number of organizations, volunteers, returns filed, and people helped through the CVITP

3,144 organizations in 2017/2018

- 172 organizations focused on Indigenous peoples in 162 different communities
- 16 new indigenous-focussed organizations in 13 new communities

17,736 volunteers preparing returns!!

786,600 tax returns filed

703,400 people helped





We are investing in the CVITP to ensure that more Canadians with a modest income and a simple tax situation can get the benefits and credits that they may be entitled to.

- We are building strong partnerships with community organizations and associations like the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA), with a commitment to continue to build partnerships and support organizations.
- We are reaching out to more communities and individuals to promote awareness of the benefit of filing tax returns for those in vulnerable circumstances.
- We are collaborating internally and with different levels of governments to make filing easier for individuals
- We are working with organizations and partners to provide more support and better products so that they, in turn, can support their community.

