

Extension of the eligibility period for the refundable tax credit providing a one-time cost of living amount of \$600 or \$400

On November 9, 2022, the government announced the introduction of a refundable tax credit granting a one-time cost of living amount of up to \$600 or \$400, as the case may be (hereinafter referred to as the “one-time amount”).¹

In summary, an eligible individual could, subject to certain conditions, benefit from the payment of a one-time amount of up to \$600 where the individual’s net income, for the 2021 calendar year, did not exceed \$54 000, or a one-time amount of up to \$400 where the individual’s net income for the 2021 calendar year was greater than \$54 000, but did not exceed \$104 000.

To benefit from this tax assistance, an individual had to meet certain conditions, including having filed their tax return for the 2021 calendar year no later than June 30, 2023.²

Individuals eligible for this refundable tax credit received the tax assistance mainly in November and December 2022, without having to apply for it. For those who filed their tax returns for the 2021 calendar year after the one-time amount was announced, but no later than June 30, 2023, Revenu Québec proceeded to pay the assistance during the 2023 calendar year.

However, it has come to the attention of the Ministère des Finances that some low-income individuals were unable to file their tax returns for the 2021 calendar year by the required deadline. For this reason, they did not receive the one-time amount to which they might have been entitled.

Consequently, as an exceptional measure, Québec’s tax legislation will be amended so that, to benefit from this one-time amount, the individual must have filed their tax return for the 2021 calendar year by June 30, 2024 at the latest.³ This change will allow a greater number of low- and middle-income Quebecers to benefit from this tax assistance.

¹ MINISTÈRE DES FINANCES DU QUÉBEC, *Information Bulletin* 2022-6, November 9, 2022.

² This requirement did not apply to recipients of last-resort financial assistance as of December 31, 2021, who received automatic payment of the basic amount of the QST component of the solidarity tax credit for the payment period beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. For more information, please refer to: MINISTÈRE DES FINANCES DU QUÉBEC, *Information Bulletin* 2019-10, November 7, 2019, pp. 6-8; *Taxation Act*, s. 1029.8.116.18.1 and 1029.8.116.18.2.

³ An Act to give effect to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 22 March 2022 and to certain other measures (S.Q. 2023, chapter 2), s. 108, par. 1, subpar. 5°.

Lastly, for greater clarity, in accordance with the rule set out in *Information Bulletin 2022-6* of November 9, 2022, if an individual's net income for the 2021 calendar year changes after that date, this change is not taken into account in determining the one-time amount to which the individual is entitled.⁴

To obtain information on this information bulletin, contact the Secteur du droit fiscal, de l'optimisation des revenus et des politiques locales et autochtones, at secteurdroitfiscaletdelafiscalite@finances.gouv.qc.ca.

The English and French versions of this bulletin are available on the Ministère des Finances website, at www.finances.gouv.qc.ca.

⁴ *Ibid.*, s. 108, par. 6.