



# Canadian Tax Information and Software for the 2017 Tax Year

Ask questions at any time during this presentation



# Where do I start?

- ▶ Look at this CRA website - <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/t1gtrdy/menu-eng.html>
- ▶ The CRA has done a nice job of providing an excellent starting point, this website provides a great deal of general information:
  - ▶ What is the filing deadline?
  - ▶ If you filed 2016 your return by paper the 2017 package should have been mailed directly to you. You can download
  - ▶ Can I get help if I need it?
  - ▶ Tax Tips – Helpful advice and information
  - ▶ Helpful YouTube videos (25 of them)
  - ▶ What's new for 2017



# The CRA Video Gallery

- ▶ Here is where you will find the videos specific to filing your tax return - <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/vdglly/ndvdl/srs-prprngrtrn-eng.html>
- ▶ Here is where you will find CRA YouTube channel where you can find all the CRA videos - <https://www.youtube.com/user/CanRevAgency>
- ▶ There are playlists there that have the videos in groups by subject
- ▶ You can selectively chose which videos you wish to view
- ▶ Other videos also available on YouTube related to Canadian taxes
  - ▶ Filing a StudioTax return using Netfile - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkQ2TQDA\\_II&t=18s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkQ2TQDA_II&t=18s)
  - ▶ Tax tutorial, preparing a T1 tax return (5 videos) - [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAM4wdMZEoVz\\_nQAtKp48JgdPTA8g48PT](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAM4wdMZEoVz_nQAtKp48JgdPTA8g48PT)



# Links referenced in the CRA Video Gallery segments

- ▶ <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/vdglry/ndvdl/srs-prprngrtrn-lnks-eng.html>
- ▶ Here is where you will find some of the detailed information that is referenced in the videos in the CRA Video Gallery
- ▶ The links on this webpage will answer many of your questions related to completing your return, using tax preparation software, how to file and make any necessary payments and avoiding penalties



# Tax Preparation Software

- ▶ Both free and paid tax preparation software is available
- ▶ You can do your return completely on-line or install the software on your PC and complete your tax return that way
- ▶ Either methods allows you to file your return electronically if you wish
- ▶ If your tax situation is simple a free solution could work for you
- ▶ Your best reference for available tax software for Canada is the CRA website referenced earlier which documents which software is CRA certified
- ▶ There are links on the CRA certified software page that gets you to the desired webpage for the software you are interested in



# CRA On-Line Services

- ▶ You know that you can access some of your tax forms and documents on-line?
- ▶ You can **View** your personal income tax and benefit information, and **manage** your tax affairs online: change your return, change your address or telephone number, register to receive online mail, authorize your representative or formally dispute your assessment or determination
- ▶ Here is where you go to access your account or set one up if you do not already have an account with CRA - <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/loginservices/>
- ▶ Access the CRA My Account service via a CRA user ID and password or through a Sign-In partner, most financial institutions



# What is new this year?

- ▶ [https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/newsroom/tax-tips/tax-tips-2017/whats-new-2017-tax-filing-season.](https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/newsroom/tax-tips/tax-tips-2017/whats-new-2017-tax-filing-season)
- ▶ New benefits & credits
- ▶ New services
- ▶ Enhanced services
- ▶ Other changes
- ▶ Use the website above to review the changes



# Using Tax Preparation Software

- ▶ You need to confirm that whichever software you chose is certified by CRA for 2017 tax returns
- ▶ The online versions generally allow you to complete your return and then pay when you Netfile or print your return
- ▶ Consider how many returns you will be doing and the complexity of your return when choosing the software you want to use.
- ▶ There are online reviews of the more popular tax software packages, here is one example - <http://www.theupside.ca/list-canadian-tax-software-filing-tax-return-online/>





# What kinds of devices are supported by tax software?

- ▶ There are on-line versions and versions that you install and run on your own device – mobile, PC or tablet
- ▶ See the CRA website to differentiate between desktop, mobile and online versions
- ▶ If you have a Chromebook you would need to use one of the on-line versions
- ▶ Regardless of which software you use or on which device ensure you download and install any updates whenever you start the software

# Canadian Tax Software - Free

Product name	Certified 2017 tax year	Category	Services Available	Certified prior years
<a href="#">StudioTax</a> for Windows	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135</a> , <a href="#">Auto-fill</a> & <a href="#">Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">TurboTax Free</a> for Windows	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135</a> , <a href="#">Auto-fill</a> & <a href="#">Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015
<a href="#">H&amp;R Block Tax Software</a>	Yes	Online	<a href="#">T1135</a> , <a href="#">Auto-fill</a> & <a href="#">Express NOA</a>	2016
<a href="#">GenuTax Standard</a> for Windows	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">Auto-fill</a> & <a href="#">Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">SimpleTax</a> (AT)	Yes	Online	<a href="#">T1135</a> , <a href="#">Auto-fill</a> , <a href="#">ReFILE</a> <sup>2</sup> & <a href="#">Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">SimpleTax</a> - iPad	Yes	Mobile	<a href="#">T1135</a> , <a href="#">Auto-fill</a> , <a href="#">ReFILE</a> <sup>2</sup> & <a href="#">Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">StudioTax</a> for Mac	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135</a> , <a href="#">Auto-fill</a> & <a href="#">Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">TurboTax Online Free</a>	Yes	Online	<a href="#">T1135</a> , <a href="#">Auto-fill</a> & <a href="#">Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015
<a href="#">AdvTax</a>	Yes	Online	<a href="#">T1135</a> , <a href="#">Auto-fill</a> & <a href="#">Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014

# Canadian Tax Software – Paid/Free under certain conditions

Product name	Certified 2017 tax year	Category	Services Available	Certified prior years
<a href="#">TaxFreeway for Windows</a>	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill, ReFILE 2 &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">TaxTron - Windows</a>	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">myTaxExpress - Windows</a>	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">UFile for Windows</a>	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">FutureTax - Windows</a>	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135 &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">TaxFreeway for iPad</a>	Yes	Mobile	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill, ReFILE 2 &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">EachTax.com</a>	Yes	Online	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">fastneasytax.com - iPad/iPhone</a>	Yes	Mobile	<a href="#">Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">Tax Chopper Online</a>	Yes	Online	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">TaxFreeway for Mac</a>	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill, ReFILE 2 &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">TurboTax Online</a>	Yes	Online	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014

# Canadian Tax Software – Paid/Free under certain conditions cont.

<a href="#">H&amp;R Block Online Tax Software</a>	Yes	Online	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016
<a href="#">UFile ONLINE</a>	Yes	Online	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">TurboTax</a> - Windows (AT)	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">TaxTron</a> - Mac	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">WebTax4U.ca</a>	Yes	Online	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill, ReFILE <sup>2</sup> &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">fastneasytax.com</a>	Yes	Online	<a href="#">Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">myTaxExpress</a> - MAC	Yes	Desktop	<a href="#">T1135, Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014
<a href="#">fastneasytax.com</a> - Android	Yes	Mobile	<a href="#">Auto-fill &amp; Express NOA</a>	2016, 2015, 2014



# UFile Demonstration

- ▶ Once you have entered your personal information and told the software which forms you have you just enter the numbers from the boxes on the forms
- ▶ You can load your personal information from previous tax years
- ▶ You can automatically download a lot of information from the CRA
- ▶ The software will be looking for things you may have overlooked or missed
- ▶ Once the return is complete you can netfile the return, that is send it electronically to the CRA

# Ufile for 2017 Canadian Taxes

The screenshot displays the UFile 2017 software interface. At the top, a progress bar shows five steps: 1. Start (Get started with helpful information and tips), 2. Interview (Enter your tax information, tax slips, etc.), 3. Review (Review your results, view messages and more), 4. Tax Return (View or print your complete tax return(s)), and 5. NETFILE (File your tax return electronically). The 'Start' step is currently selected and highlighted in blue. Below the progress bar, the main area features the UFile 2017 logo and a large blue button with a right-pointing arrow and the text 'Start on a new tax file'. To the right of this button are three stacked buttons: 'Carry Forward a 2016 tax file' (grey), 'Add additional keys' (orange), and 'Open an existing file' (teal). At the bottom, there are three checkboxes: 'Get Latest Updates' (checked), 'Important Changes' (unchecked), and 'New Tutorial' (unchecked).



# Using the Software

- ▶ Other software will be similar in function and easy of use to Ufile
- ▶ You can use the “interview” process as if you were consulting with a professional tax preparer or go directly to the forms you know you need
- ▶ The software will be doing checks as you proceed through it
- ▶ You can complete the returns for other family members at the same time as you do your own return
- ▶ Once the review step is complete and you are satisfied you can print and mail your return or netfile it
- ▶ It is not difficult and most vendors provide support – FAQs and email for free and email and live person for paid in most cases



# Questions???

- ▶ Take advantage of Robert being here with us – ask any questions that you have not already and go home ready to do your taxes and get it over with
- ▶ Before you decide which software you want to use take a look at several, the vendor websites are available to you through the CRA website and by simple Internet search
- ▶ Is there anything else you would like to see?
- ▶ THANK YOU