



The Way Forward ■

2009 has been a productive year for Tax and Revenue Administration (TRA). It's time to look back at what we have achieved and begin planning what will make it easier for companies to do business in Alberta going forward.

Although TRA has led or been involved in numerous initiatives throughout the year, several particularly stand out as value for Alberta taxpayers and stakeholders. One is the attention being given to identifying and acting on opportunities to streamline regulations and remove barriers to competitiveness for Alberta businesses.

For example, Alberta Finance and Enterprise is collaborating with the Department of Energy to prevent duplication of provisions in the Fuel Tax and Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) regulations. We are examining opportunities where information can

be shared to reduce the reporting burden on fuel suppliers and RFS participants.

Another key focus for TRA has been to provide taxpayers with the cost-effective service alternative of electronic access to their accounts. Some years ago, TRA launched Tax and Revenue Administration Client Self-service (TRACS). This web-based tool that allows online claims and return filing in various programs (fuel tax rebates, tourism levy, and International Fuel Tax Agreement [IFTA]) is now expanding.

Next, taxpayers in the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) program will have access to their account information electronically. They will be able to use the electronic service to obtain account balances, for example, rather than having to telephone, fax or write for the information. Down the road, net-filing will also reduce processing time by eliminating the paper steps and making it more convenient for corporate taxpayers to file their returns.

In 2009, TRA also began to expand the Prescribed Off-road Rebates Percentages (PROP) program to three industry sectors that are not currently eligible. Although this change will not reduce benefits, that is, it will be tax neutral, the initiative will decrease participation in the administratively costly Tax Exempt Fuel User (TEFU) program and alleviate some of the administrative burden on taxpayers, as well. It will also substantially improve service to affected Alberta businesses and municipalities.

INDEX:

- [Reporting Unclaimed Property](#)
- [Tourism levy isn't just for people](#)
- [Updated and new publications](#)
- [Alberta SR & ED Program](#)
- [Pandemic Plan in place](#)
- [TEFU fuel consumption benchmark](#)
- [No Change at Reception Desk During Construction](#)
- [Questions, comments and ideas](#)
- [TRACS](#)

At TRA we are always looking for ways to help taxpayers meet their tax obligations as painlessly as possible and reduce government's administrative costs to benefit all Albertans. We meet with stakeholders groups regularly to gather ideas about how we can help to reduce regulatory burdens. We expect these activities to continue in 2010.



Jane Clerk, CMA,
Assistant Deputy Minister



Reporting unclaimed property

December 31 holder inventory key date

[<Complete article.>](#)

[Back to Index](#)

Tourism levy isn't just for people

Pets pay the levy, too.

[<Complete article.>](#)

[Back to Index](#)



Updated and new publications

October to December 2009

[<Complete list.>](#)

[Back to Index](#)

Scientific Research & Experimental Development

Alberta tax credit program swings into action

[<Complete article.>](#)

[Back to Index](#)

Pandemic plan is in place

In collaboration with other divisions in Alberta Finance and Enterprise, Tax and Revenue Administration has developed pandemic plans should the H1N1 influenza virus seriously compromise our resources. Our goal is to maintain corporate and commodity tax functions as close to normal as possible. Contingencies are in place, should a pandemic affect our operations.

[Back to Index](#)

TRA no longer to provide change at reception desk

[<Complete article.>](#)

[Back to Index](#)

TEFU fuel consumption benchmark for Light-duty trucks is coming

[<Complete article.>](#)

[Back to Index](#)



During construction...



When visiting Tax and Revenue Administration offices in the Haultain building, please use

- ❖ the two-hour parking area on 98th Avenue and 107th Street, next to the Transit Centre.
- ❖ the two-hour parking on both sides of the street along 107th Street at 99th Avenue.
- ❖ meter space along 99th Avenue; five spaces have a 20-minute time limit.
- ❖ one of two outdoor handicap stalls (if you have a tag) at the north east end of the Bowker Building (corner of 99th Avenue and 108th Street).

If you are dropping off returns and remittances after business hours, the Tax and Revenue Administration black mailbox is available at the south front entrance of the Sir Frederick Haultain Building.

Please continue to send courier packages to the Haultain building.

[Back to Index](#)

Questions, comments, ideas...

Need to contact TRA about your account or obtain a hard copy version of an information circular about a program? Looking for assistance navigating our website? Do you have comments about how we're doing or article ideas for the future editions of *Tax Notes*? Contact us.

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[Back to Index](#)

We encourage IFTA, PROP, TEFS, and tourism levy taxpayers and claimants – and their authorized tax preparation firms – to use the TRA Client Self-service (TRACS) electronic system to make return filing, claim submission and account checking faster and easier. For these programs you can also pay on-line through most banking institutions. To see how TRACS can benefit your business, visit the [TRACS website](#).

