



By FOREST LI

CHILD BENEFITS

To support families with children, the federal and provincial governments give child benefits in the form of monthly cash payments and annual tax-saving credits to qualified supporting parents. The tax-saving credits include a dozen of refundable and non-refundable tax credits such as GST credit, dependant credit and fitness, art and activity tax credits. If you are qualified, you should apply and claim all the applicable child benefits and credits.

CANADA CHILD TAX BENEFITS

CCTB consists of Child Basic Benefit, National Child Benefit Supplement, and Child Disability Benefit. In Ontario, the provincial child benefit is also administered by CCTB program. The benefits are paid on the 20th of each month. The maximum amount is about \$400 per month for a child under 18 years of age. The amount decreases slightly for each of the extra children in a family. The amount decreases with the increase of your adjusted family income over \$25,000.

In addition, there is Child Disability Benefit of \$220 per month per child. To be qualified, the Disability Tax Credit Certificate needs to

be signed by a doctor and approved by Canada Revenue Agency.

UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE BENEFIT

UCCB, \$100 per month, is a taxable benefit paid to eligible families with children under six years of age. The payment is different from that of CCTB, but paid to you also on the 20th of each month. The amount you received for a tax year is reported on a slip called RC62, sent to you automatically by the end of the year. You need to report this amount as income in your tax return.

CHILD TAX-SAVING CREDIT

Child tax-saving credits include the refundable credits (such as GST credit, Ontario sales tax credit and activity tax credit) and the non-refundable tax credits (such as child basic tax credit, eligible dependent tax credit, education credit and child fitness and art tax credits). Also, if you paid medical and childcare expenses for your children, you can claim them in your tax return to save your income tax. The government does not give you the credits automatically. You have to claim any of the applicable tax credits to maximize your child tax benefits. ■

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