



January 31, 2006

Millions of Albertans receive resource rebate

Edmonton... Close to three million *Alberta Resource Rebate* payments have been made to eligible Albertans, including rebates for 700,000 children under the age of 18. Payments for children were in most cases included on the cheque of their primary caregiver, usually the mother. Cheque distribution for the first scheduled run started during the second-last week of January and continued over several days.

Individuals who believe they qualified to receive the rebate in January but have not received a cheque by February 10, 2006, should contact Canada Revenue Agency's *Alberta Resource Rebate* enquiries line at **1-866-209-8903** (for service in English) or **1-866-209-8994** (for service in French).

Updated information can also be found on the Government of Alberta website, www.gov.ab.ca, and on Canada Revenue Agency's website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/benefits (click on 'Alberta 2005 Resource Rebate' under the questions and answers section). General questions about the program should continue to be directed to the Alberta government's Service Alberta line at 310-4455, toll free in Alberta, or toll free from outside Alberta at 1-866-825-4455.

To qualify for the rebate, individuals must have filed their 2004 income tax return, even if they had no income in 2004, and have been residents of Alberta on September 1, 2005, the province's centennial birthday. Every eligible Albertan 18 and older must file his/her own individual tax return in order to receive a rebate payment. Even in the case where usually only one spouse files a return, both individuals must file their own separate return. Children's rebates are sent to the primary caregiver with whom they were matched through the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) as of January 2006.

If you are an immigrant who arrived in Canada in 2005, your requirements are slightly different. You must have been a resident of Alberta as of September 1, 2005, but instead of filing a 2004 tax return, you must file a 2005 tax return. You will receive your rebate cheque in fall 2006.

If you have not yet filed your 2004 income tax return or registered your child for the CCTB, you have until **December 31, 2006** to do so and still qualify to receive the rebate. Supplementary cheque runs will begin in March 2006.

The rebate cheques are part of the Government of Alberta's plan to manage this fiscal year's unanticipated resource revenue. In early November, Alberta households received a four-page brochure outlining the ways government plans to use that revenue. The majority will be spent on priority areas that will serve long-term needs, such as the building of roads, schools, and hospitals. A significant portion will also be allocated to savings in the *Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund* and other endowment funds, to ensure current and future generations of Albertans benefit from the province's current prosperity. The total cost of the resource rebate program is estimated to be about \$1.3 billion.

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Backgrounder attached: Questions and Answers on Alberta's Resource Rebate

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Ryan Cromb,
A/Director of Communications,

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Background

January 31, 2006

Questions and answers on Alberta's resource rebate

General information

1. I haven't received my rebate yet; what should I do?

If an individual completed a 2004 tax return, was a resident of Alberta on September 1, 2005 and knows they were qualified to receive a cheque in January and have not received one by

February 10, 2006, they can call Canada Revenue Agency's dedicated *Alberta Resource Rebate* enquiries line at 1-866-209-8903 (for service in English) or 1-866-209-8994 (for service in French). Individuals are asked to wait until February 10, 2006 to allow sufficient time for mail that may have been re-directed to make its way to the intended recipient.

• **Where can I find out more information about the *Alberta Resource Rebate*?**

For questions related to the *Alberta Resource Rebate* program, call toll free 1-866-209-8903 or visit the Government of Alberta website at www.gov.ab.ca.

For questions related to filing the 2004 Income Tax Return, call Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) at 1-800-959-8281.

For enquiries on registering children for the Canada Child Tax Benefit program with the CRA, call 1-800-387-1193.

Income tax returns/Canada Child Tax Benefit

• **My spouse and I filed a joint tax return in 2004. Do we both still qualify for the rebate?**

Individuals must file their own tax return, since this is the only way Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) can identify and register individual Albertans. It is important to note that, while individuals can claim dependents on their tax return, CRA does not recognize "joint tax returns" as separate individual records.

• **I didn't work in 2004. Do I still have to file a tax return?**

In order to receive the rebate, individuals who had no income in 2004 must still file an income tax return - they would simply claim zero income.

• **I haven't filed my 2004 tax return or registered my children for the Canada Child Tax Benefit yet. Can I still get the rebate?**

If you have not yet filed a 2004 tax return or filled out the form for the Canada Child Tax Benefit, you have until December 31, 2006 to do so and still receive the rebate. Once you have done this, you will receive the rebate during one of the supplementary cheque runs, scheduled to begin in March 2006.

Children

- **My child turned 18 in December 2005. I did not receive his \$400 payment on my cheque. Doesn't he qualify for the rebate?**

If your child was a resident of Alberta on September 1, 2005, that child does qualify for the rebate. Children who turned 18 anytime in 2005 will have to file their own 2004 income tax return to receive their rebate. Once their return has been processed, they will automatically qualify for the rebate and will receive it during one of the supplementary cheque runs, scheduled to begin in March 2006.

- **I am 17 years old and I live on my own. How do I get my rebate?**

For minors who are neither attached to a primary caregiver nor under the care of the province, an application form will be available in February 2006 so they can apply to receive the rebate. The application form will be posted on the Government of Alberta website at www.gov.ab.ca.

Other

- **My family member passed away in 2005, does he still qualify for the rebate?**

Individuals who passed away in 2005 still qualify for the rebate, provided they filed their 2004 income tax return and were resident in Alberta at the time of their death. Rebates for these individuals will be made out to their estate and should be handled by the individual's executor/administrator.

- **I immigrated to Alberta in 2005 and was here on September 1, 2005. Do I qualify for the rebate?**

If you are an immigrant who arrived in Canada in 2005, your requirements are slightly different. You must have been a resident of Alberta as of September 1, 2005, but instead of filing a 2004 tax return you must file a 2005 tax return. You will receive your rebate cheque in fall 2006.

- **My address recently changed. What should I do?**

The *Alberta Resource Rebate* is sent in the mail. If you have recently moved, you have to provide the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) with your new address as soon as possible by calling 1-800-959-8281. If you informed CRA of an address change and you have not yet received your rebate payment, call the *Alberta Resource Rebate* enquiries service toll free at 1-866-209-8903 after February 10, 2006, to allow time for Canada Post to return the payment to CRA. If CRA has your new address, your payment will automatically be re-mailed to you.

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Media enquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

This backgrounder is available on the Alberta Finance homepage at: <http://www.finance.gov.ab.ca>

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Send us your comments or questions

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