



# Ross, Pope & Company LLP

*Chartered Accountants*

## **New Information for Homeowners**

### **HOME RENOVATIONS TAX CREDIT (HRTC)**

The Home Renovation Tax Credit is only available for the 2009 tax year. It is a non-refundable tax credit based on the eligible expenses of more than \$1,000, but not more than \$10,000, that you pay for improvements to your house, condo or cottage between January 27, 2009 and February 1, 2010. The maximum credit available is \$1,350 [(\$10,000 - \$1,000) x 15%].

For more information about eligibility, time limits, dwelling and eligible expenses, please visit:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/hrtc/index.html>

### **FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS' TAX CREDIT (HBTC)**

For 2009 and subsequent years, there will be a new, non-refundable tax credit available for home purchases with a closing date after January 27, 2009. The credit is calculated based on a fixed amount of \$5,000, multiplied by the lowest personal income tax rate of 15%. This results in a total credit of \$750. The credit is available only if:

- The individual acquires a qualifying home; and
- Neither the individual nor the individual's spouse or common-law partner owned and lived in another home in the year of purchase or any of the four preceding years.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/bdgt/2009/fqhbtc-eng.html>

## **HOME BUYERS' PLAN (HBP)**

The Home Buyers' Plan is a program that allows you to withdraw money from your registered retirement savings plan (RRSPs) to buy to build a qualifying home. The cash withdrawn is not subject to taxes, but must be repaid to the individual's RRSPs over a period of time. After January 27, 2009, individuals qualifying under this plan will be allowed to withdraw a maximum of \$25,000 (increased from the maximum of \$20,000 in 2008).

For more information, please visit

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/rrsp-reer/hbp-rap/menu-eng.html>

## **ecoENERGY RETROFIT – HOMES GRANT PROGRAM**

The ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes grant is administered by Natural Resources Canada. The grant applies to a host of measures that reduce energy consumption and provide for a cleaner environment. Home and property owners could be eligible for federal grants of up to \$5,000 to offset the cost of making energy efficiency improvements to their home or property. Most provinces and territories have complementary programs that offer additional financial assistance based on the results of the ecoENERGY Retrofit evaluation. Homeowners participating in this program are eligible to received the HRTC in addition to ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes grant for some of the improvements made.

For more information, please visit:

<http://ecoaction.gc.ca/ecoenergy-ecoenergie/retrofithomes-renovationmaisons-eng.cfm>