



Communiqué

To: First Nation Leadership
From: Chiefs of Ontario
Date: June 20, 2018
Re: Update on Work with Canada Revenue Agency re: OI/NLS Tax Collections

This communiqué serves as an update on the recent discussions between the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Attached is a PowerPoint presentation prepared by the CRA in regards to the joint efforts towards ending the unfair tax collection practices against former employees of OI Employment Services/Native Leasing. As a result of CRA's aggressive tactics, all former OI/NLS employees suffered various degrees of financial and emotional stress. We have been assured that the approach is much more flexible and kinder to this "class" of taxpayers now administered under a special collections approach organized by CRA.

The CRA reports that the majority of cases have been resolved. As of this month, there are 541 collection cases remaining. To date, the CRA has received 818 tax payer relief requests and has reviewed 815 of those requests. However, the CRA states that to request penalty and interest relief, NLS employees need to explain the circumstances that prevented them from meeting their tax obligations. Based on our discussions we strongly encourage the following:

- Any former OI/NLS employee that has an income of \$30,000 or less to contact the CRA officials below as we believe their debt is likely to be favourably dealt with.
- Those former OI/NLS employees with between \$30,000-\$60,000 in income to contact both the officials below and the Chiefs of Ontario in order to assure that these NLS employees receive favourable treatment of their tax debt, penalties and interest payable.
- For those former OI/NLS employees who have over \$60,000 in current income, please contact the Chiefs of Ontario so that we can individually plan an advocacy strategy so that we can end the harassment and uncertainty that this debt has created for those individuals as well.

The simple solution for all current OI/NLS cases is that outstanding taxes, penalties and interest be forgiven at once. However, there is a statutory limitation period of 10 years for forgiveness of interest payable, so interest payable before June 2008, may be an issue that we

will need to work out, on a case by case basis with CRA and the former OI/NLS employees.

For more information, please contact the CRA employees who have been assigned to this file:

Bruno D'Alessandro Phone (905) 566-6616

Mary Baiden Phone (905) 803-7562

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Chiefs of Ontario contact:

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The COO website also has a link to the PowerPoint update along with information and forms on taxpayer relief at <http://www.chiefs-of-ontario.org/priorities/economic/>