

April 30th is still a ways away....but if you're thinking of accessing the volunteer tax program at FCSS here's what you need to know.

FCSS has a fantastic group of volunteers that have been trained by CRA to help file tax returns for low income community members in Claresholm and surrounding area.

Volunteers do not prepare returns for individuals who:

- Have self employment income
- Have business income and/or expenses
- Have rental income and/or expenses
- Have capital gains or losses
- Have employment expenses
- File for bankruptcy
- Are deceased in the tax year

What are the income thresholds for accessing the FCSS Volunteer Tax Program? A single filer can access the program if their income is under \$35,000 (with one child add \$5000). A couple can access with a combined income under \$40,000 (add \$2500 per child).

If you have had an address change in the tax year or a name change, please contact CRA to update your information before coming to our office. Volunteers will not be able to submit your return without the correct and updated information already on file at CRA.

Wait until you receive ALL of your T4's, T4A (OAS), T4P(CPP), AISH, Workers Compensation, Welfare, Income Support Canadian Income Tax Slips BEFORE you come into the office to fill out your paperwork. This will prevent amendments having to be made to your returns which means less work for our volunteers.

Make sure you come to pick up your paperwork when you're called after your return has been submitted. FCSS cannot keep your personal information on file. You often need this information for your records. Finished documents not picked up need to be shredded.

Make sure you file your taxes. Even if your income is zero. Failure to do so can result in loss of income from social programs like child tax benefit, AISH, income support. Our volunteers can make it painless and can file your returns free of charge for multiple years if you meet the requirements.

This year you will be required to come in and review your return before it's filed. This is to make sure that you have all the necessary documents you need for your records.