

## Why You Are Receiving This Package

Low income adversely affects health and wellbeing – it is not a proxy for unhealthy behaviours but is an independent risk factor for numerous health problems. Health and social service providers can support low income clients by enabling access to income and benefits.

**You and your organization can support individuals and families living on a low-income file their taxes and unlock access to significant refunds and benefits.**

The posters enclosed have been sent to various organizations across the province to raise awareness about the importance of tax filing to receive refunds and full benefits due. The two blank areas located on each poster are designed to be completed based on the capacity of the organization receiving them. To find out how your organization can best utilize these posters, please consider the staff and personnel you have onsite.

## How To Use These Posters: 3 Options

Note: You can print the poster and fill in the blanks with a marker or edit the PDF with your text before printing

### A. Onsite Help:

Is there staff or other personnel available to help individuals complete their taxes?

Fill in the blanks with the following:

- Name or occupation of person/s onsite
- What to say to staff to be directed to the appropriate person/s or tax clinic within your site

### B. Supportive Conversations:

Is there staff or other personnel available to have conversations with individuals to encourage them and direct them to tax filing resources?

Fill in the blanks with the following:

- Name or occupation of person/s onsite
- What to say to staff to be directed to the appropriate person/s

### C. Advertising Resources:

Are there no staff or other personnel onsite to support? That's ok! Please use the posters to advertise a free tax clinic in your community area.

\*Fill in the blanks with the following:

- Name of the organization hosting the clinic
- Location
- Date/s and time

\*For a list of organizations that provide tax assistance/clinics in your community visit:

<https://mb.211.ca/> (click on financial)

\*For a complete listing of free community tax clinics in Winnipeg and Manitoba visit:

[www.canada.ca/taxes-help](http://www.canada.ca/taxes-help)

Examples:

*Community Volunteer  
Income Tax Program*

**FREE TAX CLINIC** if your income is less than \$35,000 to \$45,000. Bring your forms.

**WE'RE A FREE SERVICE.  
CONTACT US TODAY.**

**Norquay Building**  
401 York Avenue - Basement Auditorium

February 25, 2020 to March 31, 2020  
Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

April 1, 2020 to April 30, 2020  
Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

**LET** *Your Healthcare Provider* **CONNECT YOU TO HELP.**

**JUST SAY** "Can I speak to someone for more information about resources to file my taxes."

# Guidance For Supportive Conversations About Tax Filing

Key points to speak to:

1. **Encourage** individuals to file their taxes by conveying how easy and doable it is and the potential for access to various federal and provincial tax benefits.
2. **Explain** to individuals how benefits are always changing; there may be ones they were unaware of but qualify for by completing their tax return.
3. **Ask** individuals if there are barriers to filing their taxes and if possible, help them problem solve those barriers. Consider barriers such as: transportation, childcare, distrust of government institutions, limited computer access, misinformation, low literacy or no bank account.
4. **Find out** if the individual or family is eligible to have their taxes completed by a free volunteer community tax clinic (\*refer to table below). If so, direct them to a clinic in their community area and remind them to bring the following: SIN, Manitoba Healthcard, T-slips and other tax-related documents.

<b>*Eligibility For Free Tax Clinics</b>	
(Volunteers cannot complete returns with self-employment income, rental property income or interest income over \$ 1, 000)	
<b>Individual</b>	\$35,000
<b>**Couple</b>	\$45,000
<b>*Individual with dependent</b>	\$45,000
*Each individual dependent adds \$2, 500 to the suggested family income **Common law/married couples must come together	

5. **Remind** individuals and families about additional benefits not included in income tax filing such as Rent Assist or the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit. Please note that although free community tax clinics are seasonal, individuals and families can file their income taxes at any time during the year.

## Additional Resources

Get Your Benefits Resource: [www.getyourbenefits.ca](http://www.getyourbenefits.ca)