



## How Maria got benefits and credits



Maria fled violence in her home country. She is resettling in Canada where she just moved into an apartment with her children to start her new life.

As a permanent resident of Canada, Maria could get Canada child benefit payments to help her with the cost of raising her children. She could also get GST/HST credit payments and provincial or territorial payments, if she is eligible for them.

### How can Maria get her payments?

- First, she has to get a social insurance number (SIN). She will go to a Service Canada office to apply for a SIN and she will get one during that visit.
- To get **Canada child benefit** payments, she will fill out forms RC66, Canada Child Benefits Application, and RC66SCH, Status in Canada/Statement of Income, and send them to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
- To get **GST/HST credit** payments, she will fill out Form RC151, GST/HST Credit Application for Individuals Who Become Residents of Canada, and send it to the CRA.
- To avoid any delays, she needs to include with her applications all the documents the CRA asks for on the forms, such as proof of birth for each of her children.
- After Maria sends her applications, the CRA might send her a letter asking for some documents to validate her information. Maria can call the telephone number on the letter to make sure to send the right documents. By doing that, the validation process will be handled quickly.
- To continue getting her payments after June of the year after she arrived in Canada, Maria will have to do her taxes every year, even if she has no income to report.

If Maria had a spouse or common-law partner who is also a new resident of Canada, she would have to give information about them on her forms, such as their social insurance number and their income, because the payment amounts are based on family income. Her spouse or common-law partner would also have to do their taxes every year.

### Keep your personal information up to date

Changes to your personal information such as your marital status, the number of children in your care, and your address directly affect your benefit payments. To avoid delays and incorrect payments, update your personal information with the CRA.

## What if you can't get a SIN?

If Service Canada will not give you a SIN, you can still apply for benefit and credit payments. Attach a note to your forms explaining why you cannot get a SIN, and a photocopy of one of these documents:

- Your passport
- Your driver's licence
- Your visitor record or study permit
- Your temporary resident permit
- Any document issued to you by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

## Is the CRA asking for documents?

After you apply for benefits and credits, the CRA may send you a letter if they need documents to confirm some of the information they have on file about you. If you can't provide the documents the CRA is requesting or if you don't understand what they are asking, call them. The CRA might tell you to send a letter from one of the following instead:

- Sponsor
- Resettlement officer
- Community or church group
- Service provider organization
- Support service or agency
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Don't ignore the letter! If you do, your payments could be delayed or stopped.

## Authorize a representative

You can give permission to another person (such as a family member, a friend, or an accountant) to communicate with the CRA for you. Fill out Form T1013, Authorizing or Cancelling a Representative, and send it to the CRA. You don't need to authorize a representative if someone is only doing your taxes.

## For more information

### Online

Tax information for newcomers  
[canada.ca/taxes-newcomers](https://canada.ca/taxes-newcomers)

Child and family benefits  
[canada.ca/child-family-benefits](https://canada.ca/child-family-benefits)

CRA forms and publications  
[canada.ca/cra-forms](https://canada.ca/cra-forms)

Get ready to do your taxes  
[canada.ca/taxes-get-ready](https://canada.ca/taxes-get-ready)

### By phone

To ask about benefits  
**1-800-387-1193**

For other questions and to get forms  
**1-800-959-8281**

Social insurance number (Service Canada)  
**1-800-206-7218**