

The HST Blog

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The Canada Revenue Agency Announces Ice Storm Taxpayer Relief

On January 9, 2014, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) issued a news release "Taxpayer relief available for businesses affected by power outages due to severe weather conditions in Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada" in which it provides information to taxpayers affected by the December 2013 ice storm.

Many businesses in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces could not file GST/HST returns on time in December due to the power outages. Late filed GST/HST returns (and failure to pay the amounts owning) could lead to assessments of interest and penalties. The CRA is willing to grant taxpayer relief relating to the late filing/late payment penalties and interest. The amount of GST/HST owing must still be paid. The delay must be reasonable. Requests for taxpayer relief will be considered by the CRA on a case-by-case basis.

Affected businesses can apply to have interest or penalties or both waived or cancelled using Form RC4288, Request for Taxpayer Relief.

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