

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

OW and ODSP recipients with children need to file their 2007 tax return to qualify for the Ontario Child Benefit

Even if you don't owe any money, if you are a parent on OW or ODSP, you need to file your tax return before the deadline of April 30, 2008.

Why?

Starting in July 2008, eligible low-income families will receive up to \$50 per month per child through the new Ontario Child Benefit (OCB). In order to be eligible, parents must:

- have a dependent child or children under the age of 18;
- be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
- be a resident of Ontario;
- meet the low-income eligibility criteria;
- register their children for the Canada Child Tax Benefit; **and**,
- ***file their tax return for the previous year.***

If I don't file my tax return, what will happen?

If you don't file your tax return, you won't receive the OCB. And if you don't receive the OCB, your monthly income could drop. This is because OW and ODSP rates are being restructured for parents with dependent children when the OCB starts in July. But if you are eligible for the OCB, the total money you receive each month will increase.

So what should I do now?

- 1) Make sure to file your tax return for 2007. You can download an application form from the Revenue Canada website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/forms/ or have one sent to you by calling 1-800-959-8281. **And**,
- 2) If you haven't already done this, you **must** register your child or children for the Canada Child Tax Benefit. You can download an application form from www.cra-arc.gc.ca/benefits/cctb/ or call 1-800-959-2221.

What if I don't qualify for the OCB, or I only qualify for part of it?

Talk to your worker as soon as possible. Tell them that you want to make sure that you receive the Transitional Child Benefit (TCB) starting in July. The TCB is intended to help parents who are not eligible or only partially eligible for the Ontario Child Benefit because, for example, they are not permanent residents or citizens, because their incomes are above the financial eligibility cut-off, or for various other reasons.

See www.incomesecurity.org/resources for fact sheets and backgrounders on the Ontario Child Benefit and Rate Restructuring.