

Conscience Canada Peace Tax Return 2010

**If you work
for peace...**



**Affirm your refusal to pay for war.
Redirect a symbolic part of your military taxes
OR
Redirect all your military taxes.**

Peace Tax Return

Personal Information

Name		
Address		
City	Prov./Terr.	Postal code
Phone	Email	

As your Social Insurance Number (SIN) is your Canada Revenue Agency account number, you might wish to add your SIN to the paper copy going to the CRA in the space below. Do not divulge your SIN to others.

Option A: Declaration of Conscience

- I am a conscientious objector to war and object to being forced to support war by the conscription of my taxes.
- Under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms I request that none of my taxes be used for war.
- I request that legislation be enacted to create a government controlled Peace Fund for non-military peace-building purposes to which the military portion of my taxes can be diverted.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Option B: Declaration of Conscience and Redirection of Part or All of Military Taxes

- I am a conscientious objector to war and object to being forced to support war by the conscription of my taxes.
- Under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms I request that none of my taxes be used for war.
- I request that legislation be enacted to create a government controlled Peace Fund for non-military peace-building purposes to which the military portion of my taxes can be diverted.

• On the grounds of conscience I am herewith :

diverting 8.9%, the military portion of owed federal tax for tax year 2010 (or)

diverting a symbolic portion of owed federal tax, \$_____, to the Peace Tax Fund of Conscience Canada, pending the creation of a government controlled Peace Fund.

- I believe that non-military peace building initiatives are more effective and more cost effective, and will not offend my conscience.
- Please recognize my human right to exercise my conscientious objection to war by ensuring that none of my taxes are used for military purposes.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Encl: Copy of cheque to Conscience Canada Peace Tax Trust Fund, Copy of letter to Minister of Finance

THE PEACE TAX RETURN: A Declaration of Objection to Military Taxes

*This form is for those who **object to military spending on grounds of conscience or principle** and wish to declare their objection to the Canadian government. Although this is not an official Income Tax and Benefit Return form, it is not an offense to use it, and we are not aware of any criminal charges against any of the 1,000+ Canadians who have expressed conscientious objection to military taxation since Conscience Canada began in 1978. For information on likely consequences, please see our website www.consciencecanada.ca*

Instructions for Option A

Option A is for those who have no tax payable, have a refund coming, or do not wish to redirect their military taxes but still want to register their objection to paying for war.

- Sign and date your Option A declaration of objection to military taxation.
- Mail it to the Minister of Finance, House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6.
- Notify Conscience Canada by mail or email.

It will strengthen your message if you:

- Send a letter to the Minister of Finance along with your declaration, explaining why you wish to have your taxes supporting peace rather than killing. We offer a sample letter on page 4.
- Send copies of your letter to the Minister of Revenue, to all Party Leaders, to Bill Siksay MP (the sponsor of a bill regarding conscientious objection to military taxation), your MP, and Conscience Canada. Contact information can be found at www.consciencecanada.ca or call 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) for government contact information.
- Become a member of Conscience Canada by indicating that is your wish in your letter to Conscience Canada (see above). If you can send a small contribution to help pay for the newsletters you will receive that would be appreciated and will be receipted.

Instructions for Option B

Option B is for those who wish to redirect all or part of their military taxes.

- After completing your official Income Tax form down to Balance Owing, go back to the Net Federal Tax Line and calculate 8.9% (Department of National Defense expenditures in 2010) of the amount you entered on this line. Deduct that amount (the 9.2%) from your cheque to be sent to the Receiver General. If you have chosen to divert a **symbolic** sum, deduct the symbolic amount you have chosen if you have tax owing.
- Write a cheque for the amount you are diverting to "Conscience Canada Peace Tax Trust Fund" and send it to Conscience Canada, 901-70 Mill Street, Toronto, ON M5A 4R1. **Conscience Canada will hold this money in trust and will return it to you at any time at your request.** In order to simplify bookkeeping, Conscience Canada will use interest from the Peace Tax Trust Fund for operating expenses.
- Make two photocopies of the cheque to Conscience Canada: one to send to CRA and one for your records.
- Write a letter to the Minister of Finance explaining why you wish to have your taxes supporting peace rather than killing. Revise the sample on the following page so that it speaks for you.
- After signing and dating the declaration in Option B, attach the following to your Income Tax and Benefit Return: the Peace Tax Return, the photocopy of the cheque, and a copy of your letter to the Minister of Finance. Send to your Tax Centre or Tax Services Office.
- Send a copy of your Peace Tax Return along with your letter to the Minister of Finance. We also encourage you to send copies of your letter to all Party Leaders, to Bill Siksay MP (the sponsor of a bill regarding conscientious objection to military taxation), your MP, and Conscience Canada. Contact information can be found at www.consciencecanada.ca or call 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) for government contact information.

IF E-FILING your tax return, mail the Peace Tax Return, the photocopy of the cheque, and a copy of the letter you wrote to the Minister of Finance to the Tax Centre or Tax Services Office nearest you.
Go to www.consciencecanada.ca for addresses of tax offices."

Sample Letter to Minister of Finance

Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear _____,

I oppose war and killing and I am unable in good conscience to pay taxes which support war and the preparations for war. Canada has respected conscientious objection to bearing arms for over two hundred years. However, in this time of high tech warfare, governments need to conscript our money, not our bodies.

Freedom of conscience is guaranteed under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. I ask you to support Private Member's Bill C-390, "An Act respecting conscientious objection to the use of taxes for military purposes", which would allow me to direct that all my taxes be spent only for peaceful purposes. I am asking that you work to bring such a bill to a vote in the House of Commons. This kind of tax provision is needed in order for Canada to respect its commitment to freedom of conscience.

Sincerely,

[Your name]
[Your address]

In your letter, you may also wish to address the history of conscientious objection in Canada, the destructive effects of war, the financial burden and lost opportunities relating to military spending, the impact of military spending on the environment, non-violent alternatives to military force, and Canadian leadership in keeping peace. Visit our website www.consciencecanada.ca for more information.

If you have no tax to pay because it is deducted at source, you may wish to consult the CRA website www.cra-arc.gc.ca for form T1213(04) which may allow you to reduce the tax deducted.

On May 12, 2009 Senator Nancy Ruth addressed the Senate of Canada, stating: "I am speaking in support of the re-introduction into parliament of the Conscientious Objection Act, which would give all Canadians the option of dedicating their taxes solely to peaceful purposes." As she had explained to the Senators on May 15, 2007: "I am one of those Canadians who, for some years, have withheld from my income tax payment the percentage for the military budget. I have put that money on deposit with a peace tax fund called Conscience Canada. I encourage honourable senators to do so too. [...]"

As Julia Ward Howe said, "The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

CONSCIENCE CANADA has worked since 1978 to increase Canadians' awareness of the connection between taxes and war, divert taxes away from war, support creative non-violent conflict prevention and resolution, and promote conscientious objection legislation.

For more information, contact Conscience Canada

901-70 Mill Street, Toronto, ON M5A 4R1 ❖ 416-203-1402

consciencecanada@consciencecanada.ca ❖ <http://www.consciencecanada.ca>

