

## **Tax Tip**

**Week of January 17, 2011**

### **GST/HST Savings for Training Individuals with a Disability**

The government exempts certain expenditures from the GST/HST if they assist with the training of an individual with a disability. Examples of disorders or disabilities include autism, post-traumatic stress disorder, anorexia, bulimia, dyslexia, and Alzheimer's disease.

Training services provided to children and adults with a disorder or disability or to a person who provides personal care or supervision to those individuals are exempt from the GST/HST if the following three conditions are met:

1. The training is specially designed to assist an individual with a disorder or disability in coping with effects of the disorder or disability or to alleviate or eliminate those effects. However, the training must not be similar to training ordinarily given to persons who do not have a disorder or disability, or who do not provide care or supervision to an individual with a disorder or disability. For example, this exemption does not apply to general fitness training.
2. The training is provided to the individual with the disorder or disability or to a person who provides personal care or supervision otherwise than in a professional capacity to that individual, such as a parent or caregiver.
- 3) One of the following conditions applies:
  - a) a practitioner, such as a provincially-licensed psychologist, a doctor, social worker or registered nurse, acting in the course of a professional-client relationship, certifies in writing that the training is an appropriate means to assist the individual in coping with the effects of the disorder or disability or to alleviate or eliminate those effects;

b) the training is supplied by the federal, provincial or territorial government;

c) the person who provides the training receives an amount to provide the training from the federal, provincial or territorial government or from an organization administering a government program targeted at assisting individuals with a disorder or disability; or

d) the person who acquires the training service receives an amount from the federal, provincial or territorial government or from an organization administering a government program targeted at assisting individuals with a disorder or disability for the training.

If a family is caring for an individual with a disability, ensuring that the assistance received meets the government definition will result in a savings for the family.