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STRUGGLING CANADIANS MAY BE LEAVING MONEY ON THE TABLE *Nearly three quarters of Canadians say they did not claim any new tax credits last year*

Calgary, ALBERTA – (February 4, 2009) – H&R Block is reminding Canadians that one way to make ends meet in our troubled economy is to take advantage of new tax credits this tax season. That advice follows the results of a recent poll conducted for H&R Block that indicates **nearly 75 per cent of Canadians did not take advantage of any new tax credits on their 2007 tax return.**

The poll conducted by Angus Reid Strategies asked 1,010 Canadians if they took advantage of any new tax credits last year, and if so, which ones. The results show that only one-in-four people surveyed claimed any of the new tax credits introduced for the 2007 tax year. Those new tax credits included the Children's Fitness Credit, Child Tax Credit and Pension Income Splitting.

“Last year, a number of tax credits and changes were introduced that would benefit just about every Canadian taxpayer,” says Cleo Hamel, Senior Tax Analyst, H&R Block Canada. “But if you don't claim all the credits and benefits you are entitled to, you are overpaying the government with your hard earned money.”

Western Canadians more likely to claim new tax credits

The poll showed considerable variance across Canada when it came to claiming new tax credits. Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan (42 per cent) were more likely to take advantage of new tax credits in 2007, while Quebec (18 per cent) had the lowest proportion in the entire country.

For taxpayers who did take advantage of the new tax credits on their 2007 tax return, 18 per cent said they claimed the Child Tax Credit. Pension Income Splitting (16 per cent) and the Transit Pass Credit (15 per cent) were the next most popular. The Children's Fitness Credit (14 per cent) and the Working Income Tax Credit (11 per cent) were the other tax credits mentioned.

“Not every Canadian will be able to claim the Child Tax Credit but there are others like the Canada Employment Credit that had little awareness among Canadian taxpayers,” explains Hamel. “This credit is available to anyone with employment income but only seven per cent of those surveyed said they claimed the \$1,000 non refundable credit.”

Age and Family Status major determining factors in tax credits claimed

The results also showed that age was a major factor in which tax credits were claimed, reflecting their life stage. Respondents 18 to 34 were more likely to claim the Child Tax Credit (30 per cent) and the Transit Pass Credit (24 per cent) while those aged 35 to 54 took

advantage of the Children's Fitness Credit (26 per cent). Pension income splitting was claimed by 48 per cent of Canadians over age 55 who took advantage of the new tax credits in 2007.

This Canadian public opinion poll was conducted online by Angus Reid Strategies, from December 15 to December 16, 2008 and surveyed 1,010, randomly selected adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/-3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

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