

Minister
of National Revenue



Ministre
du Revenu national

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

OCT 01 2013

Mr. J. Jaye Torley
President
Profitable Giving Canada
Suite 1707
515 Riverside Drive West
Windsor ON N9A 7C3

Dear Mr. Torley:

Thank you for your correspondence about a petition letter signed by over 700 taxpayers about the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) withholding assessments of taxpayers' returns. My predecessor, the Honourable Gail Shea, also received your correspondence about the same matter. Please accept my apology for the delay in replying.

Because you have not provided written authorization from the taxpayers, I can only give you the following general information.

Canada's tax system is based on self-assessment. Although there is a high degree of public compliance with the law, the CRA can maintain this system only by continually examining tax returns. To make sure taxpayers respect the law, the CRA runs various review and enforcement programs to examine all categories of returns and choose files for audit based on objective criteria using risk assessment techniques.

When carrying out audit or enforcement activities, CRA officials make every effort to be fair, considerate, and responsive to taxpayers' needs. Officials are also required to respect taxpayers' rights and show integrity and impartiality while doing their jobs. The CRA's goals include conducting quality audits and applying the law and its administrative policies fairly and consistently.

The *Income Tax Act* requires the CRA to process returns promptly. However, when a return needs a more detailed review, the CRA will not assess the return until it completes the review.

.../2

I note your comments about the recent Federal Court decision in *Alice Ficek v. The Attorney General of Canada*. Once it finishes the review, the CRA will announce its decision.

I trust that the information I have provided is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay, P.C., Q.C., M.P.