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Continuing Point of Sale Exemption For Ontario's First Nations

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Ontario will continue to provide a provincial exemption for First Nations under the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). This exemption has been in place in Ontario for 30 years under the Retail Sales Tax (RST). Effective September 1, 2010, Status Indians will be exempt from paying the provincial portion of the HST on eligible purchases off-reserve.

Under the HST, purchases by Status Indians are exempt when purchased on or delivered to a reserve by a vendor or its agent. Ontario's treatment will extend this exemption to eligible goods and select services purchased off-reserve — the same system that exists right now under the RST.

The Ontario government and First Nations leaders have been working together to maintain the point of sale exemption. In June 2010, all provincial parties supported a motion in the Ontario legislature calling on the federal government to maintain the current point of sale exemption.

The exemption will come into place on September 1, 2010. In the interim, from July 1 to August 31, First Nations can receive refunds by submitting receipts to the Ministry of Revenue.

QUICK FACTS

- For 30 years, Ontario has provided an RST point of sale exemption for most goods and select services purchased by Status Indians.
- Under the Memorandum of Agreement signed on May 3, 2010, by the Ontario Regional Chief on behalf of the Political Confederacy, and the Ontario government, the province pledged to work with the federal government to include a point of

sale exemption for Ontario's Status Indians under the HST framework.

LEARN MORE

- Learn more about the HST and Ontario's Tax Plan for Jobs and Growth at www.ontario.ca/taxchange

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"Ontario can now continue its existing point of sale exemption for First Nations, one that has been in place for 30 years under the RST. We are pleased that all parties involved worked cooperatively to make this point of sale exemption for Ontario's First Nations a reality."

– John Wilkinson
Minister of Revenue

"We have stood shoulder to shoulder with our First Nations partners for many months now to ensure the continuation of the point of sale exemption. I am pleased that we have now reached our shared goal together."

– Chris Bentley
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

"I am thrilled and our people will be relieved that the point of sale exemption for First Nations will be continued within the HST framework. First Nations have worked tirelessly with Ontario and the federal government to make this a reality. The ability to achieve this reflects the great potential of the government-to-government relationship between Ontario and First Nations."

– Angus Toulouse
Regional Chief

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