Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

CRA Is Going Digital — Here's How to Keep Your Congregation Compliant

A quick guide for ELCIC treasurers.

Starting January 1, 2027, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will require every registered charity — including every ELCIC congregation — to file its annual T3010 charity information return online.

Mailed paper returns will stop being accepted once January 1, 2027, deadline arrives. CRA's fax line for charities was retired on April 1, 2026.

Missing a filing risks a $500 penalty and possible revocation of charitable status — which also cancels the tax receipts your congregation has issued.

The good news: there's a workable path for every congregation, no matter where you're starting from. Find the situation below that fits your congregation and follow the recommended step.

If you have internet access and someone willing to learn — Recommended: Register now for CRA's My Business Account (MyBA), and call CRA's free Digital Concierge line at 1-800-267-2384 for real-time, one-on-one help setting up your account and filing online. No cost, no appointment needed. If you have registered for CRA's My Business Account, no need to register again go ahead and call CRA's free Digital Concierge line for one-on-one help. If you have registered with CRA's My Business account and you have been filing your charity returns online, you need not do anything.

If no one at your congregation has the time to manage this ongoing — Recommended: You'll still need to register for My Business Account yourself first — CRA's Digital Concierge (1-800-267-2384) can walk you through that one-time step by phone. From there, you can find a representative (such as a bookkeeper or accountant) to file through CRA's "Represent a Client" service going forward — note that representatives typically charge a fee. Keeping your books up to date year-round makes this much easier and cheaper, since the numbers need to be easy to pull together

If you're unsure your numbers or forms are accurate — Recommended: Use CRA-certified T3010 preparation software (many include free built-in error checks) to check your numbers.

If your congregation has no computer or internet access — Recommended: Mailed paper returns will cease by January 1, 2027, deadline. Find someone in your congregation who is willing to allow use of their computer and internet access for purposes of registering for My Business Account and for the filing of your church's T3010 annual charity information return. A reasonable fee for these services can be charged and should be negotiated in advance. Start making arrangements now.

Register to use online services for charities - https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/charities/operating-a-registered-charity/business-account.html

Mark your calendar: all T3010 returns must be filed online starting January 1, 2027. The earlier your congregation picks a path, the easier the transition.

Questions? We're glad to help. Contact Finance & Administration, ELCIC National Office —panthony-idoko@elcic.ca· 204-984-9150 · 1-888-786-6707 or call synod office.