

Harmonized Sales Tax Information Bulletin #2

June 18, 2009

The H.S.T. information from Revenue Canada is very slow in coming.

Full information packages will be available in late August. Meanwhile, here's what the H.S.T. Committee are doing and a timeline.

The HST Committee met via teleconference calls on June 2, June 10, and June 15th to plan summer action.

- The test templates have been “tweaked” and gone out to 16 different test organizations for completion. The organizations are charitable, not-for-profit, and commercial. They include Arts Service Organizations, Theatres, Dance Companies, Symphonies, and Galleries of all sizes and budgets. The templates follow the CADAC Financial Form to make it easier for some companies to complete. Deadline for the test companies to get back to the HST Committee is 2nd week of July.
- The test templates will be analyzed for accuracy and ease of use. The financial experts on the HST Committee will create blank templates for submission to all members for their use in late August.
- The HST Committee will get more information from Canada Revenue Agency on the transitional rules regarding the HST. (This is not published by CRA yet.) They will also get more information from companies in other provinces that lived through the HST transition.
- Arts Service Organization Executive Directors are going to meet to discuss advocacy issues and the next communications to go to their members.
- Second week of August the HST Committee will meet again to obtain updates.
- Further communications will go out to the membership late August including the final templates that members can use to analyze the effect of the H.S.T. on their own organization with full instructions, transitional rules, how to access needed information, what expertise is available to members and next steps for the members.
- A 10-point checklist will be made available to bookkeepers/accountants for their explicit use to help with the transition.
- Advocacy will be done early Fall
- In September the HST Committee will make a final report.