

Home & Mortgage ESSENTIALS

Home tips, ideas, and mortgage solutions
to help save you time and money.

There's more to a mortgage *than just a low rate*

For Canadians looking for a mortgage, rates continue to be low by historical standards. But while securing an attractive interest rate may be a top priority for many borrowers, it pays to talk to your mortgage professional. He or she can help you:

- make sense of the many product choices available to you,
- decide what's best for you when it comes to mortgage features such as refinancing penalties, pre-payment options, skip-a-payment options, portability and assumability,
- make sure that the features of your mortgage fit your personal goals, both now and down the road.

The Home Renovation Tax Credit: What projects are covered?

Here are some expenses that qualify, and a few others that do not.



Examples of ELIGIBLE expenses

- Renovating a kitchen, bathroom, or basement
- Windows and doors
- New carpet or hardwood floors
- New furnace, fireplace, water heater
- Home security system (monthly fees do not qualify)
- Solar panels and solar panel trackers
- Painting the interior or exterior of a home
- Building an addition, garage, deck, garden/storage shed, or fence
- Fixtures - blinds, shades, shutters, lights, ceiling fans, etc.

Examples of INELIGIBLE expenses

- Furniture, appliances, audiovisual electronics
- Maintenance contracts (e.g. furnace cleaning, snow removal, and lawn care)
- Carpet cleaning, house cleaning

The HRTC is based on work performed or goods purchased between January 27, 2009 and February 1, 2010. For more info: www.cra-arc.gc.ca.



Top tips on choosing a Realtor

1. Talk to friends, family and business associates about who they would recommend. Your mortgage professional can also advise you.
2. Ask the prospective real estate agent how long they've been in the business.
3. Find out what areas or neighbourhoods they focus on, and if they specialize in a specific type of client such as first-time buyers or condominium buyers.
4. Ask for references from past clients.
5. Ask how they find out about new properties that come onto the market.

Whether you are purchasing a home, refinancing or renewing your mortgage, I can help...



Canada's Trusted Source for Mortgage Solutions