



10 Small Business Tax Write-offs

From yourmoney.ca

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One of the advantages of running your own business is being able to deduct certain expenses from your income. While you won't be able to write off 100% of these expenses, you can still end up saving a significant amount of money each year (be sure you save every single receipt!).

Here's a list of 10 tax write-offs available to Canadian small business owners.

1. **Capital assets.** Your capital assets are things that you've bought for your business that you'll continue to use on an ongoing basis like furniture, office equipment and computers. While you won't be able to write capital assets off in a single year, you are able to write them off over a certain period of time. You can find detailed information on the rates of your depreciable properties at the [Canadian Revenue Agency](#) website.
2. **Vehicle expenses.** If you use your vehicle for your business, there are a number of deductible expenses including fuel and oil, mileage, insurance, maintenance and repairs, parking, license and registration fees and costs for owning or leasing. You can also write off your CAA membership or toll road fees - unfortunately, traffic tickets aren't tax deductible!
3. **Advertising.** The cost of advertising your business is also tax deductible. Some of these expenses might include the design and printing of marketing communications (e.g. brochures, posters or point-of-sale material), website design, radio and TV commercials, or the cost to create and place print ads in a newspaper or magazine. If the publication you're advertising in has at least 80% Canadian content, you can deduct 100% of the cost - otherwise, you're looking at a 50% deduction.
4. **Meals and entertainment.** Not all of your business meals or entertainment expenses can be deducted - but if you're travelling for business or if you pay to have food delivered to the office for employees who are working late, you can deduct 100% of those expenses. Business lunches or dinners with clients or business partners are 50% deductible. As for your own personal lunches... those aren't deductible at all.
5. **Supplies.** All those little things you need to run your business like sticky notes, staplers and photocopy paper are all tax deductible.
6. **Professional services.** The accountant you hire to do your taxes or the lawyer who helps you write up contracts are professional services you can write off.
7. **Travel.** Flights, hotels, meals... these are all travel expenses that are tax deductible (usually up to 50%). If you're travelling to a conference or convention that's related to your business, you can write off the cost of that event as well.
8. **Employee salaries and benefits.** If you have employees working for you (including salaried family members), their wages, salaries and benefits are tax deductible.
9. **Home office expenses.** If you happen to run your business from your home, you can also write off expenses for heat, electricity, insurance, mortgage (or rent) and property taxes. The amount you can deduct depends of the square footage of your home and what percentage of that space is dedicated to running your business.
10. **Little things you might forget about.** Other deductible expenses that are often overlooked include membership dues, subscriptions to business publications and bank-related fees. Yes, those ATM and online banking fees are deductible - so are merchant services for costs incurred using PayPal.