

C. Single Person's Credit

- (55) A unique feature of the GST credit regime is the additional credit made available to single adults. This credit is not available to households with incomes below about \$6000 and the maximum value of the credit is available only to those with incomes in excess of about \$11000. Many witnesses decried the fact that the credit is not available to those who most need it. The Canadian Federation of Students noted in particular that many university students will not be eligible for the singles credit and very few would be eligible for the maximum. According to NAPO, the Department of Finance designed the credit in such a way as to exclude most students. The Social Planning Council of Ottawa-Carleton suggested that the threshold for the singles credit be lowered. The House of Commons Finance Committee recommended that the single person's credit be abolished and any savings used to enhance the credit for the first adult in each family.

D. Take-up Rate

- (56) Some witnesses argued that the GST is particularly onerous for the most disadvantaged of Canadians who will not file for a GST refundable credit because they have no taxable income. One suggestion was for the Government to undertake a major outreach program to ensure that all Canadians eligible for the credit do in fact receive it.
- (57) The take up rate for the refundable child tax credit is very high, about 96% of those registered to receive family allowance payments. As the Canadian Council on Social Development pointed out, not all eligible families receive the family allowance but those who don't