



WATCH TOWER

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BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF CANADA
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November 28, 2009

TO ALL SPECIAL PIONEERS IN CANADA

Re: Automobile Expense Account

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It is certainly encouraging to observe the increases in the number of regular pioneers and Bible studies being conducted in the Canada field for the past service year. Without a doubt, your zealous efforts as special pioneers have contributed to these increases, resulting in a great shout of praise to our Father, Jehovah. (Isa. 52:7) We wish to thank you for your faithful work in advancing Kingdom interests.

To support your work as special pioneers, the Governing Body has lovingly provided the Automobile Expense Account (AEA) arrangement to assist with the cost of owning and operating a vehicle for travel to congregation meetings, field service, shepherding, circuit events, and district conventions to which your congregation is assigned. We wish to inform you that the Governing Body has directed that an adjustment be made in how reimbursements will be calculated for your travel expenses as you carry out your theocratic assignments.

Beginning January 1, 2010, the AEA arrangement will be adjusted so that the reimbursement will *more closely match the actual cost of fuel used* in approved spiritual activities. The new formula will be as follows: qualifying kilometers driven multiplied by the current fuel price (as established by the Branch Committee) divided by the average fuel efficiency (average city/highway kilometers per liter) of the registered vehicle. The table below provides an example of this adjusted AEA calculation.

AEA Calculation:	Qualifying Kilometers	x	Current Average Fuel Cost per Liter	÷	Average Kilometers per Liter	=	Available Reimbursement
Example:	1,600	x	\$1.02	÷	11	=	\$148.36

Additionally, please note that the maximum number of kilometers is being adjusted to 21,000 per year.

Any funds requested for the 2009 calendar year will be reimbursed under the current arrangement. However, before any reimbursement can be requested and dispensed for January 2010 or beyond, each married couple or single person must provide the branch office with the average kilometers per liter of their automobile. **This figure can be entered on the back of either your December or January monthly report.** If this figure needs to be adjusted in the future, please provide this information in a separate letter.

This adjustment will likely reduce the funds available to vehicle owners through the AEA arrangement. However, financial support is also provided through the monthly reimbursement to

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assist with the many expenses involved in owning and operating a motor vehicle. For example, each vehicle owner (and spouse, if married) currently receives \$70 per month to assist with travel expenses as part of his or her monthly reimbursement. This is in addition to any AEA funds requested.

All of us are keenly aware of our responsibility to use dedicated funds conservatively, which is the reason for this adjustment. There may be occasions where you will find it more economical to use public transportation or to carpool rather than to make constant use of your vehicle. It is appreciated that under this new arrangement some may not be able to cover quite as much territory as they did in the past. We are confident that you will continue to look for ways to conserve just as you are in fact already doing. Your faithfully working along with this new arrangement will be much appreciated.

As a reminder, one account is provided for each married couple and single person owning an automobile. Reimbursement cannot be requested for mileage accrued from travel to give talks in other congregations, assisting other congregations with matters such as maintenance or construction, shopping or visiting friends in the congregation, and other personal uses.

Although it is not easy, as “critical times hard to deal with” are steadily becoming more difficult, your self-sacrificing course in the use of your “valuable things,” including your time, strength, and material possessions, is truly appreciated and does not go unnoticed by Jehovah. (2 Tim. 3:1; Prov. 3:9; Heb. 6:10) It is our prayer that he will continue to bless your zeal and self-sacrificing spirit.

Your brothers,

Watch Tower B. & J. Society

OF CANADA

c: Traveling overseers

PS to body of elders: The branch office appreciates the support and encouragement you provide special pioneers serving with your congregation. Likely, they have served many years in special full-time service and are deserving of any assistance that you and the congregation are able to provide. As you will note, we have suggested that the special pioneers carpool whenever possible. Please encourage the publishers to assist in this way. You may also want to remind the publishers that it would be a loving thing to at least offer a contribution to help in covering expenses when pioneers assist them with transportation to meetings or when in field service. (1 Cor. 13:5) The September 1990 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 4, paragraph 7, reminded all of us to show appreciation for pioneers. It said: “Besides giving commendation, you can express your appreciation for such hard workers in a tangible way by sharing a meal with them, voluntarily assisting them with their travel expenses, and in other ways supporting them as you are able.—Compare 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13.” It would be a kindness to reimburse special pioneers for their travel expenses when they are invited by your congregation to give a talk. Our desire is that they will be able to continue joyfully serving as special pioneers and focus on their full schedule in the ministry. Thank you for your assistance with this endeavor.