

Business Outlook



Paul and Sharon Thompson are co-owners of a new franchise maid service called Tailor Maid. The business opens May 10, Mother's Day.

Couple's business is Tailor Maid

The growth of two income families and more women in the workforce has underscored the need for contracting out home-cleaning.

To meet this need, Paul and Sharon Thompson have started their own business called Tailor Maid. The franchise outlet has offices also in Oakville and Burlington.

The business of maid service for cleaning homes was almost non-existent 10 years ago, the couple says. Now, it's one of the fastest growing businesses in Halton.

Tailor Maid is a service named because hired help do cleaning "tailor-made" to your needs. Some examples are: laundry, silver, cupboards and closets, window interiors, spring cleaning, regular or one-time cleaning, exterior window cleaning and carpet cleaning. For

inquiries about the service, call 877-1724.

The business is officially open May 11, Mother's Day. Tailor Maid would eventually like to expand so that it will have three cars on the road and six employees hired.

The owners have lived in Georgetown for the past three years. They have two children, Stephen, 16, and Kim, 9. Mrs. Thompson is also the owner of the First Choice Haircutters on Mountview Road and Guelph Street.

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Joys of self-employment

If a poll were taken of one hundred people, asking them what their major ambitions were, most would include being self-employed. Being one's own boss conjures up visions of great wealth, prestige, and tax advantages. Certainly, being self-employed does have many advantages. You can more or less set your own business hours, vacation time, etc. You can pay yourself as much as you want and you don't have to huddle for a raise. And, you do get a lot more tax deductions than your employed counterpart.

Let's take a look at what an employed taxpayer may claim against income:

1. Employment expense deduction — 20% of gross earnings, maximum of \$500.
2. Unemployment insurance premiums.
3. Registered Pension Plan and Registered Retirement Savings Plan premiums.
4. Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan premiums.
5. Commission salesmen's expenses to a maximum of commissions earned including: entertainment and promotion, travel, automobile, supplies, and uniforms.

6. Travel expenses where the employee is required to work away from the employer's place of business or in several places; is required to pay his/her own travelling expenses; and does not receive an allowance for the latter.

7. Automobile expenses under the same circumstances as travelling expenses.

8. Trade union or professional dues.

9. In-home office expenses where the employee: — is required by contract of employment to provide and pay for such expenses;

— has incurred the expenses solely for the purpose of earning income from his/her employment;
— uses the room solely as an office;
— is not provided with office space by the employer within a reasonable distance from home.

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