

Donation Receipts

As a donor, you should make sure your receipt includes the following:

- » a statement that the receipt is an “official receipt for income tax purposes”;
- » your name and address;
- » the charity’s Business Number/Registration Number;
- » the amount of the cash donation or the fair market value of the non-cash donation;
- » the date of the donation (the year is sufficient for donations of cash);
- » the CRA’s name and website address (www.cra.gc.ca/charities); and
- » a unique serial number.

You do not have to claim all charitable donations each year on your current-year income tax return. You can apply them in any of the next 5 years.



“Ask before you give”

For more information in British Columbia call:

BC Health and Seniors’ Information Line

Toll free 1-800-465-4911
Monday to Friday
from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

VictimLINK

Toll free 1-800-563-0808
24 hours, 7 days a week

If you think someone is trying to raise money dishonestly, please contact:

Crime Stoppers

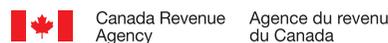
1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

PhoneBusters

1-888-495-8501

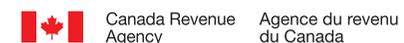
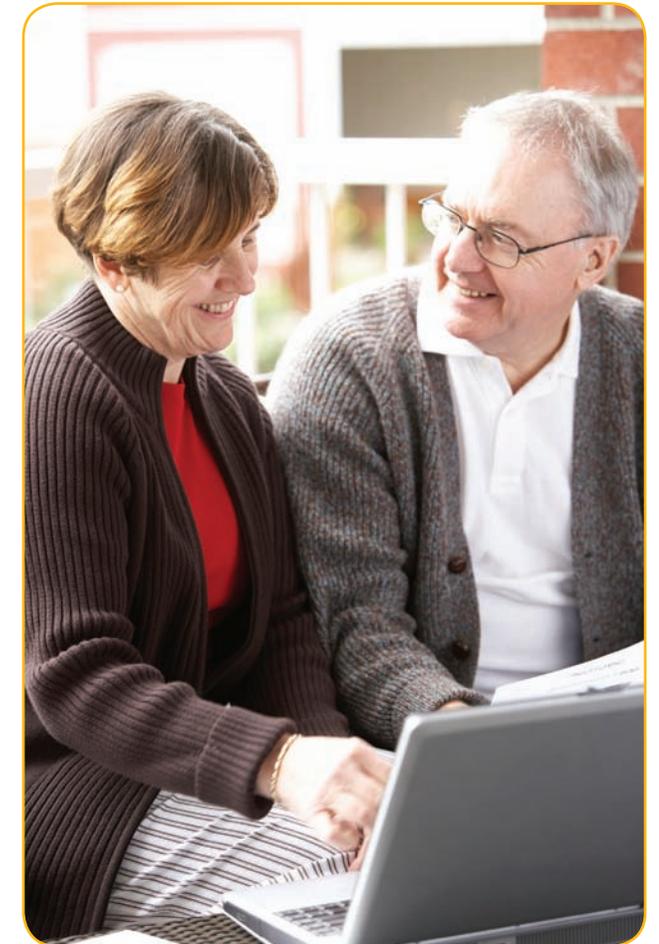
*Get the Facts
Before You Give*

www.gov.bc.ca/seniors



Donating to Charities

Get the Facts Before You Give



Donating to Charities

Most charities are honest. Unfortunately there are people who pretend to raise money for charity and keep it for themselves.

You may be contacted by mail, e-mail, phone or in person. Once a donation has been made, there is usually nothing you can do to get it back.

Ask Before You Give

Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions, or to say "I am not interested."

- » What activities does the charity do, and where?
- » What is the charity's registration number?
- » Can I get a tax receipt?
- » How much of my donation goes directly to helping others? How much goes to administration and fundraising costs?
- » Can you send me more information before I donate?

Protect Yourself

- » **Know the charity.** Get information about the charity before you donate.
- » **Don't give in to emotion** or pressure. Take time to think about your decision. A real charity will take your donation anytime.
- » **Donate to organizations**, not to people.
- » **Never give or send cash.** Use cheques payable to the charity's full name. Read and keep all your receipts.
- » **Don't give out your personal information.** Your credit card numbers, Social Insurance Number and bank account information should not be needed to make a donation.
- » **Beware of copycats.** Some names sound like well-known charities to fool you. Make sure you know which organization you're donating to.
Check the facts.

Planned Giving

Planning in advance can protect you from being a victim of fraud. You can take time to think about:

- » which organizations you would like to help;
- » how much you can afford to give;
- » when you will give during the year.

Charities Listings

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) website has a useful resource called *Giving to Charity: Information for Donors*. It provides facts about tax savings, donation receipts, the regulation of charities, and how to be an informed donor.

You can search the Charities Listings, a list of all the registered charities in Canada. For a particular charity you can find contact information, a description of the charity's activities, and financial information.

Visit www.cra.gc.ca/donors (English)
www.arc.gc.ca/donateurs (French)
Or call toll free

Canada Revenue Agency

1 800 267-2384 (for service in English) or
1 888 892-5667 (for service in French)