

Blumbergs' Snapshot of the Alberta Charity Sector 2012

By Mark Blumberg (April 27, 2014)

We recently reviewed the T3010 Registered Charity Information Return database for 2012 as part of the Sean Blumberg Transparency Project. We have provided an overview of the whole Canadian charity sector, for example in the <u>Blumbergs' Charity Sector Snapshot 2011</u>. We have taken a subset of the 2012 T3010 data to look at only registered charities based in Alberta. The data set was updated to January 2014.

Some of the highlights of the Blumbergs' Snapshot of the Alberta Charity Sector include:

- 9,096 registered charities in Alberta
- 3,309 of the registered charities listed websites
- 8,329 identified themselves as active and 574 as inactive
- 3,708 made gifts to other charities or qualified donees during their 2012 fiscal year
- \$29.4 billion in total revenue for Alberta charities and total expenditures of \$29.2 billion.
- 696 conducted activities outside of Canada and spent about \$157 million outside of Canada
- 23 Alberta charities received funds from CIDA
- 333 identified having contractual relationships with foreign intermediaries, 212 Alberta charities identified that employees conducted activities outside of Canada and 416 had volunteers conducting foreign activities.
- 43 identified carrying on political activities

- 3986 identified having employment expenses while 5028 did not have any employment expenses
- 186,933 full time employees and 229,079 part-time employees
- \$15.7 Billion was spent by Alberta charities on salaries and other compensation expenditures
- \$1.9 Billion in official donation receipts were issued by Alberta charities

The Sean Blumberg Transparency Project is in memory of my youngest brother Sean Blumberg. Sean was a sweet, kind person, a great brother who helped me on a number of occasions with many tasks

including the time consuming and arduous task of reviewing T3010 databases and making them into something useful. As part of the Sean Blumberg Transparency Project, Blumbergs will be releasing information on the Canadian charity sector to provide a better understanding of the size, scope, complexity and challenges of the sector. Thank you to Celeste Bonas, an intern at Blumbergs, for helping with this project and to my late brother Sean for being such an inspiration.
Please review the caveats at the end about the reliability and usage of T3010 information.

Place bar code label here

Canada Revenue Agency

REGISTERED CHARITY INFORMATION RETURN

Section A: Identification

- Guide T4033, Completing the Registered Charity Information Return, is available through our Forms and publications Web pages at www.cra.gc.ca/charities.
- The *Privacy Act* protects all personal information given on this form, which is kept in personal information bank CRA PPU 200. The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will make this form and all attachments available to the public on the Charities Directorate Web site, except for information or data identified as confidential. All of the information collected on this form may be shared as permitted by law (e.g., with certain other government departments and agencies).

Remember: Even if the charity goes through an inactive period, you must continue to file information returns to maintain its registered status.

If you did not receive a barcode label to affix to the return, please complete the following:

1.	1. Charity name:					
	Ident 9,096 9,123					
2.	2. Return for fiscal period ending: 3. BN	/registration number:	4.	Web ad	dress (if applicable):	
	Year Month Day	RR		3,	309	
Α1	A1 Was the charity in a subordinate position to a parent organ				Ye	s No
	If yes, please provide the name and BN/registration numb	per of the organization.				
	Name				BN (if applicable)	
A2	A2 Has the charity wound-up, dissolved, or terminated operat				60	s No
А3	A3 All charities are designated as one of the following: a cha Is your organization designated as a public foundation or p	ritable organization, a public foundation, or a porivate foundation?	priv	ate four	Ye	
	(Refer to the Form TF725, <i>Registered Charity Basic Inforr</i> package.)	mation Sheet (BIS) to confirm. This form is incl	lude	ed in the	e return	7,801
	If yes, you must complete and attach Schedule 1, Founda	ations, to your return.				
Se	Section B: Directors/trustees and like officials					
В1	The charity is required to provide certain information for al information section on the worksheet is available to the p (e.g., with certain other government departments and age sheet with the same information. Charities subject to the or	public. The confidential data section is for the ncies). Use Form T1235, <i>Directors/Trustees</i> a	e CF and	RA's use <i>Like Ofi</i>	e but may be shared as per ficials Worksheet, or include	mitted by law
Se	Section C: Programs and general information					
C1	Was the charity active during the fiscal period? If no , exp "Ongoing programs" space provided at C2	lain why in the			1800 8,329 Ye	s
C2	In the space provided, describe all ongoing and new chat governing documents) this fiscal period. "Programs" include well as through qualified donees and intermediaries. The programs (e.g., number of volunteers and/or hours). Gram "programs" does not include fundraising activities. Do not	des all of the charitable work the charity carries charity may also use this space to describe the t-making charities should describe the types o	s ou e co of or	ut on its ontributi rganizat	own through employees or ons of its volunteers in carr	volunteers as ying out its
Oı	Ongoing programs: 8,538					
N	NA 600					
ļ.,	N					
Ne	New programs: 1,638					
_						
_						
						711+1

	gistered charities may make gifts to qualified donees. Qualified donees are other registered Canadian charities, as well as ce panizations described in the <i>Income Tax Act</i> .	rtain other	
СЗ	Did the charity make gifts or transfer funds to qualified donees or other organizations?	Yes	No
_	If yes, you must complete and attach Form T1236, Qualified Donees Worksheet/Amounts Provided to Other Organizations, to your return.	3,708	5,414
О Т ,	Did the charity carry on, fund, or provide any resources through employees, volunteers, agents, joint ventures, contractors, or any other individuals, intermediaries, entities, or means (other than qualified donees) for any activity/program/project outside Canada?	Yes	No
ı	If yes, you must complete and attach Schedule 2, Activities Outside Canada, to your return.	696	8,435
	egistered charity may pursue political activities to retain, oppose, or change the law, policy, or decision of any level of govern tside Canada provided the activities are non-partisan, related to its charitable purposes, and limited in extent.	nment insi	de or
OF.	(a) Did the charity carry on any political activities during the fiscal period?	43 Yes	9,066 No
••	(b) Enter the total amount spent by the charity on these activities	\$ 7,448,9	ш
C6	If the charity carried on fundraising activities or engaged third parties to carry on fundraising activities on its behalf, tick all fundraising used during the fiscal period.	methods th	at it
	2500 Advertisements/print/radio/ TV commercials 2620 Fundraising sales (e.g., cookies) 1,639 2620 Telephone/	TV solicitat	ions 94
	TV commercials 960 Full draising sales (e.g., cookies) 1,639 Full draisi		
	2530 Collection plate/boxes 2,321 2580 Mail campaigns 788 2640 Cause-relations		
Ì	2540 Door-to-door solicitation 79 2590 Planned-giving programs 448 2650 Other 1,28	35	
	2550 Draws/lotteries 674 2600 Targeted corporate donations/ sponsorships 1,150 2660 Specify:		
	2560 Fundraising dinners/galas/concerts 1,738 2610 Targeted contacts 970		
C7	Did the charity pay external fundraisers?	Yes	8,898 No
	If yes, you must complete the following lines, and complete and attach Schedule 4, <i>Confidential Data</i> , 1. Information about Fundraisers.		
	(a) Enter the gross revenue collected by the fundraisers on behalf of the charity	\$ 66,475,	723.00
((b) Enter the amounts paid to and/or retained by the fundraisers	\$ 6,347,	539.00
((c) Identify the method of payment to the fundraiser:		
	2730 Commissions 21 2750 Finder's fees 1 2770 Honoraria	6	
	2740 Bonuses 2760 Set fee for services 65 2780 Other 16		
	2790 Specify:		
	(d) Did the fundraiser issue tax receipts on behalf of the charity?	Yes	2,181 No
	Did the charity compensate any of its directors/trustees or like officials or persons not at arm's length from the charity for services provided during the fiscal period (other than reimbursement for out-of pocket expenses)?	732 Yes	8,328 No
C9	Did the charity incur any expenses for compensation of employees during the fiscal period?	Yes	No
1	If yes, you must complete and attach Schedule 3, Compensation, to your return.	3,986	5,028
C10	in Canada and was not any of the following:	Yes	No 8,965
	 A Canadian citizen, nor Employed in Canada, nor Carrying on a business in Canada, nor A person having disposed of taxable Canadian property? 		0,903
	If yes , you must complete and attach Schedule 4, <i>Confidential Data</i> , 2. Information about Donors Not Resident in Canada, for each donation of \$10,000 or more.	1,603	7,443
C11	Did the charity receive any non-cash gifts (gifts-in-kind) for which it issued tax receipts?	Yes	No
	If yes, you must complete and attach Schedule 5, Non-Cash Gifts, to your return.	2	9,066
C12	Did the charity acquire a non-qualifying security?	Yes	No
C13	Did the charity allow a donor to use any of the charity's property during the fiscal period? (except for permissible uses)	11 Yes	9,055 No
C14		Yes	No

Section D: Financial Information

If **any** of the following applies to your charity, proceed to Schedule 6, *Detailed Financial Information*, and **do not** complete Section D below. If **none** of the following applies, complete Section D.

- a) The charity's revenue exceeds \$100,000.
- b) The amount of all property (e.g., investments, rental properties) not used in charitable programs exceeds \$25,000.
- c) The charity currently has permission to accumulate funds during this fiscal period.

Please show all figures to the nearest single dollar.
D1 Was the financial information reported below prepared on an accrual or cash basis?
D2 Summary of financial position:
Using the charity's own financial statements, provide the following:
Does the charity own land and/or buildings?
Total assets (including land and buildings)
Total liabilities
Did the charity borrow from, loan to, or invest assets with any non-arm's length parties?
D8 Revenue: 1,843 506
Did the charity issue tax receipts for donations? Yes N
If yes, what is the total eligible amount of all donations for which the charity issued tax receipts?
Total amount of 10 year gifts received
Total amount received from other registered charities. 4510 \$ 696,206,070.
What is the total amount for all other donations received for which a tax receipt was not issued by the charity? (excluding amounts at lines 4575 and 4630)
Did the charity receive any revenue from any level of Canadian government?
If yes, total amount received \$ 9,824,241.0
Total non tax-receipted amounts from all sources outside Canada (government and non-government)
Total non tax-receipted amounts from fundraising
Total revenue from sale of goods and services (except to any level of Canadian government)
Other amounts not already included in the amounts above. \$1,553,168,371.0
Total revenue (Add lines 4500 to 4650, excluding line 4505)
D4 Expenditures:
What was the charity's total expenditure on professional and consulting fees?
What was the charity's total expenditure on travel and vehicles? 4810 \$ 261,461,487.0
All other expenditures not already included in the amounts above (excluding gifts to qualified donees)
Total expenditures (excluding gifts to qualified donees) (Add lines 4860, 4810, and 4920)
a) How much did the charity spend on charitable programs?
b) How much did the charity spend on management and administration? 5010 \$ 1,866,730,822.00
Total amount of gifts made to all qualified donees
Total expenditures (Add lines 4950 and 5050). 5100 \$29,213,024,638.

This return must be signed by a director/trustee or under the <i>Income Tax Act</i> to provide false or de			hority to sign on behalf of	the charity. It is a serious offence
I certify that the information given on this form, the I Name (please print):	basic informatio	n sheet, and any attachment is,	to the best of my knowledg	ge, correct, complete, and current.
Position in charity:		Date:	Telephone No.:	
Position in chanty.		Date.	тетернопе по	
Section F: Confidential Data				
Provide the physical address of the charity and not sufficient.	d the address in	Canada for the charity's books a	and records. Post office bo	ox numbers and rural routes are
	Phys	sical address of the charity	Address for the	charity's books and records
Number, street, apt. no., or lot and concession no.				
City				
Province or territory and postal code				
F2 Name and address of individual who completed	d this return.			
Name:				
Firm name (if applicable):				
Number, street, apt. no., R.R. no., or P.O. box no.:	:			
City, province or territory, and postal code:				
Telephone No.:	Is this th	ne same individual who certified i	n Section E?	Yes No
T3010, Registered Charity Information Return,				
Have you confirmed that all charity information • Some changes can be made directly on the		Form TF725, Registered Chari	ty Basic Information She	∌et (BIS) is correct?
Have you attached Form TF725, Registered Co	harity Basic Info	ormation Sheet (BIS)?		
Has the charity made any amendments to its g • If yes, have you sent us an official copy of the			e envelope?	
Have you completed Schedule 1, Foundations,	, if required?			
Have you attached Form T1235, Directors/Trus	stees and Like (Officials Worksheet?		
Have you attached Form T1236, Qualified Don	nees Worksheet	/Amounts Provided to Other Org	anizations, if required?	
Have you completed Schedule 2, Activities Out	<i>tside Canada</i> , if	required?		
Have you completed Schedule 3, Compensation, if required?				
Have you completed Schedule 4, Confidential Data, if required?				
Have you completed Schedule 5, Non-Cash Gifts, if required?				
Have you completed Schedule 6, Detailed Final	ancial Informatio	on, if required?		
Have you attached a copy of the charity's finan	icial statements	?		

Section E: Certification

			Foundatio	ns			Schedule	÷ 1
1	Did the foundation acquire control	ol of a corporation in the fis	cal period?				. 100 Yes	No
2							7 . 110Yes	2,642 No
For private foundations only:						12	2,605	
3	At any time during the fiscal period, did the foundation hold any shares, rights to acquire shares, or debts owing to it that meet the definition of a non-qualified investment?					. 120 Yes	1,589 No	
4	Did the foundation own more than 2% of any class of shares of a corporation at any time during this fiscal period?						130 Yes	No
	If yes, you must complete and attach Form T2081, Excess Corporate Holdings Worksheet, to your return. (Note: Only private foundations will have this worksheet included in their return package.)						10	1,581
			Activities Outs	ide Canada			Schedule	2
Foi	r more information about carry	ing on programs outside	Canada see the (Charities Direc	torate website	at www.cra.gc	c.ca/charities	
1	What were total expenditures on excluding gifts to qualified done						200 \$ 157,586	,523.00
2	Were any of the charity's resource contract, agency agreement, or j						. 210 Yes	2,396 No
	If yes, enter the amounts of the	total reported on line 200 tr	ransferred to these	e individuals/org	anizations as r	equired in the fo	ollowing table:	
	Name of individual	l/organization	identify	e list on the re- country code v es were carried	vhere	Amount (\$) Show amounts to the nearest single dollar.		
3	Using the list on the reverse, ide country codes in the following sp		e charity itself car	ried on program	ns or provided a	ny of its resourc	ces. Enter the appropri	ate
4	Are any projects undertaken outs Canadian International Developr						220 Yes	2.525 No
	If yes, what was the total amoun	nt of funds expended under	this arrangement?	?			. 230 \$ 7,893	,496.00
5	Were any programs carried on o	outside Canada carried out l	by employees of th	ne charity? ²¹²	2 yes 2,3	13 no	Yes	No
6	Were any programs carried on o	outside Canada carried out l	by volunteers of th	e charity? ⁴¹	6 yes 2,1	08 no	Yes	No
7	Is the charity exporting goods as	s part of its charitable progra	ams?	47	yes 2,4	81 no	260 Yes	No
	If yes, list the items being exported, their value, their destination (city/region) and country code.							
	Item	Valu	ıe	Destinat	ion (city/regio	n)	Country code	

COUNTRY CODES

Americas-Central and South

IL-Israel

RU-Russia

Africa

AR-Argentina PS-Israeli Occupied Territories RS-Serbia DZ-Algeria AO-Angola TR-Turkey BO-Bolivia JO-Jordan **BR-Brazil** KW-Kuwait UA-Ukraine BW-Botswana **CL-Chile** LB-Lebanon QP-Other CM-Cameroon CO-Columbia OM-Oman CF-Central African Republic Asia and Oceania CR-Costa Rica QA-Qatar TD-Chad AF- Afghanistan SA-Saudi Arabia CG-Republic of Congo CU-Cuba AZ-Azerbaijan DO-Dominican Republic SY-Syrian Arab Republic CD- Democratic Republic of Congo BD-Bangladesh EC-Ecuador YE-Yemen EG-Egypt BT-Bhutan QO-Other SV-El Salvador ET-Ethiopia KH-Cambodia GT-Guatemala GA-Gabon **Europe** CN-China GY-Guyana GM-Gambia AL- Albania IN-India HT-Haiti GH-Ghana AM-Armenia ID-Indonesia **HN-Honduras** NA-Namibia BA-Bosnia and Herzegovina KZ-Kazakhstan JM-Jamaica KE-Kenya BY-Belarus KG-Kyrgyzstan LR-Liberia MX-Mexico **BG-Bulgaria** LA-Laos NI-Nicaragua MG-Madagascar **DK-Denmark** LK-Sri Lanka PA-Panama NE-Niger ES-Spain MY-Malaysia PE-Peru NG-Nigeria FR-France MN-Mongolia **UY-Uruguay** RW-Rwanda GE-Georgia MM-Mvanmar (Burma) VE-Venezuela SL-Sierra Leone **DE-Germany** KP-North Korea QM-Other SO-Somalia GB-United Kingdom KR-South Korea SD-Sudan **Americas-North** PK-Pakistan HR-Croatia UG-Uganda **US-United States of America** IT-Italy PH-Philippines ZM-Zambia QN-Other CY-Cyprus SG-Singapore ZW-Zimbabwe MK-Macedonia TH-Thailand QS-Other **Middle East** ME-Montenegro TJ-Tajikistan IR-Iran NL-Netherlands TL-Timor-Leste IQ-Iraq PL-Poland UZ-Uzbekistan RO-Romania VN-Vietnam QR-Other Schedule 3 Compensation (a) Enter the number of permanent, full-time, compensated positions in the fiscal period. This number should represent the number of positions the charity had including both managerial positions and others, and should not include independent 300 186,933 contractors..... (b) For the ten (10) highest compensated, permanent, full-time positions enter the number falling within each of the following annual compensation categories. 46,161 \$1 - \$39, 999 \$40,000 - \$79,999 \$80,000 - \$119,999 305 7,498 320 \$120,000 - \$159,999 \$160,000 - \$199,999 330 \$200,000 - \$249,999 115 335 \$250,000 - \$299,999 345 340 \$300,000 - \$349,999 \$350,000 and over (a) Enter the number of part-time or part-year (for example, seasonal) employees the charity employed during

370

229.079

\$ 5,059,305,925.00 \$ 15,708,956,832.00

Confidential Data	Schedule 4
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The information in this confidential data schedule is for the CRA's use but may be shared as permitted by law (e.g., with certain other government departments and agencies).

1. Information about Fundraisers

Please provide the name(s) and arm's length status of external fundraiser(s).

Name	At arm's length? Yes/No

2. Information about Donors Not Resident in Canada

Complete this schedule to report any donation of \$10,000 or more received from any donor that was **not** resident in Canada and was **not** any of the following:

- A Canadian citizen, nor
- Employed in Canada, nor
- Carrying on business in Canada, nor
- A person having disposed of taxable Canadian property

Provide the name of the donor and the value of the donation in the chart below. You must also indicate whether the donor was an organization (for example a business, corporate entity, charity, non-profit organization), a government or an individual by placing a check mark in the appropriate box.

Name	Amount	Organization	Government	Individual

		Non-Cash Gifts	Schedule 5
1	Identify all types of non-cash gifts (gifts-in-ki	ind) received for which a tax receipt was issued:	
	500 Artwork/wine/jewellery 406	525 Ecological properties 5	550 Publicly traded securities/mutual funds 19
	505 Building materials 254	530 Life insurance policies 64	555 Books (literature, comics) 241
	510 Clothing/furniture/food 672	Medical equipment/supplies 60	560 Other 851
	Vehicles 83	Privately-held securities 9	565 Specify:
	520 Cultural properties 30	545 Machinery/equipment (including con	nputers and software) 375
2	Indicate the total eligible amount of tay-rece	inted non-cook sifts	580 \$ 214 157 189 00

Detailed	d Financial Information	Schedule 6
Was the financial information reported below prepared on an accrual or	cash basis?	20 Accrual Cash
Statement of financial position		4,685 3,824
Show figures to the nearest single dollar.		
Assets: Cash, bank accounts, and short-term investments 4100 \$ 6,615.	Liabilities:	. 4300 \$ 3 331 386 418 00
	Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4010 h
4100	759,150.00 Deferred revenue	. 3/301/2/3/133100
	Amounts owing to non-arm's length parties.	* //1/035/1/1100
	Other liabilities	
4150	667,997.00 Total liabilities (add lines 4300 to 4330)	
	977,287.00	
Other conital coasts in Conside	328,778.00 281,393.00	
Conital assets suitaide Coneda	281,393.00 499,714.00	
	089 165 00	
	Amount included in lines 4130, 4133, 410	0,
10 year gifts	4165 and 4170 not used in charitable programs	4250 \$ 997,528,489.00
Total assets (add lines 4100 to 4170)	· •	
1.1.1. 2000to (200 mileo 7100 to 7110)		
Statement of operations		
Revenue:		
Total eligible amount of all gifts for which the charity issued tax receipts		\$ 1,896,635,354.00
Total eligible amount of tax-receipted tuition fees		
Total amount of 10 year gifts received		_
Total amount received from other registered charities	·····	
Total other gifts received for which a tax receipt was ${f not}$ issued by the ${f c}$. 4530 \$ 358,461,738.00
Total revenue received from federal government		4540 \$ 420,483,079.00
Total revenue received from provincial/territorial governments		\$ 20,200,993,933.00
Total revenue received from municipal/regional governments		. 4560 \$ 520,247,533.00
Total revenue received from all sources outside Canada		Ψ 37,399,103.00
Total interest and investment income received or earned		. 4580 \$ 297,619,603.00
Gross proceeds from disposition of assets		
$\ensuremath{\text{\textbf{Net proceeds}}}$ from disposition of assets (show a negative amount with		
Gross income received from rental of land and/or buildings		
Non tax-receipted revenues received for memberships, dues, and associate		130,331,343.00
Total non tax-receipted revenue from fundraising		* 330,130,704.00
Total revenue from sale of goods and services (except to government) .		
Other revenue not already included in the amounts above		
Specify type(s) of revenue included in the amount reported at 4650 (e.g	., dividends) 4655	
Total revenue (add lines 4500, 4510 to 4580, and 4600 to 4650)		\$29,400,259,957.00
Expenditures:		1000 ÷
Advertising and promotion		. 4800 \$ 128,020,708.00 4810 \$ 261,461,487.00
Travel and vehicle expenses		
Interest and bank charges		112,033,131.00
Licences, memberships, and dues		1 70,733,213.00
Office supplies and expenses.		301,130,173.00
Occupancy costs		+ 1/0/1/031/032:00
Professional and consulting fees		133,130,200.00
Education and training for staff and volunteers		. 02/130/012100
Total expenditure on all compensation (enter the amount reported at line		4000
Fair market value of all donated goods used in charitable programs		4901 A
Total cost of all purchased supplies and assets		Ψ 2,230,827,674.00

Amortization of capitalized assets	\$ 171,941,620.00 \$ 8,230,119,305.00
Lines 5000 to 5040 represent a breakdown of the expenditures on lines 4800 to 4920. The total of lines 5000 to 5040 should	d equal line 4950.
Total expenditures on charitable programs Total expenditures on management and administration. Total expenditures on fundraising Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada Total other expenditures included in line 4950. Total amount of gifts made to all qualified donees Total expenditures (add amounts from lines 4950 and 5050) 5000 Total expenditures (add amounts from lines 4950 and 5050)	\$ 1,866,730,822.00 \$ 283,976,732.00 \$ 7,448,952.00 \$ 579,406,875.00 \$ 916,233,764.00
Other financial information Permission to accumulate property: Only registered charities that have written permission to accumulate should complete this section. • Enter the amount accumulated for the fiscal period, including income earned on accumulated funds. • Enter the amount disbursed for the fiscal period for the specified purpose we have permitted. 5500	
Permission to reduce disbursement quota: If the charity has received approval from the Charities Directorate to make a reduction to its disbursement quota, enter the amount for the fiscal period	\$ 4,287,505.00
Property not used in charitable activities: Enter the value of property not used for charitable activities or administration during: • The 24 months before the beginning of the fiscal period. • The 24 months before the end of the fiscal period. 5900	* 3,120,403,073.00

Further information

Are you interested in more information on Transparency in the charity sector? If so, you might find these links helpful.

Blumbergs Canadian Charity Sector Snapshot 2011 -understanding the charity sector through the T3010

Blumbergs Canadian Charity Sector Snapshot 2010 -a little more perspective on the sector

Blumbergs' Snapshot of the Ontario Charity Sector 2011

Blumbergs' Directory on Transparency Related Articles

Blumbergs' Directory on Canadian charity statistics

Some questions to add to the T3010 Registered Charity Information Return

Mark Blumberg's submission to the Standing Committee on Finance on transparency

Canadian Charities and Free Transparency Tools - look before you donate your time or money

CRA publishes new web page on "How to get information about a charity"

New Transparency in Ontario for Non-Profits to be released in next few months

Finance Memo on Registered Charities - Political Activities, Foreign Funding and Transparency

Which Canadian Charities Spent Money on "political activities" and how much did they spend

So how much do Canadian charities receive from foreign sources according to the T3010 Returns?

Transparency - What can the Charities Directorate of CRA disclose about registered charities?

How accurate are the T3010 charity returns when it comes to political activities?

How to Decide Which Charity to Support

Community Foundations of Canada 2013 Conference in Winnipeg -some interesting stats

CRA publishes new web page on "How to get information about a charity"

CRA releases new T3010 (13) for registered charities with fiscal year ends after January 1, 2013

List of Ontario Non-Profit Corporations finally revealed for the first time

Who are the Canadian environmental charities?

Which Canadian Registered Charities Received the Most Money from Municipal Governments in 2012?

Which Canadian Registered Charities Received the Most Money from Provincial Governments in 2012?

www.canadiancharitylaw.ca
Which Charities Received the Most Money from the Federal Government – 2012? Largest Gifts from Canadian Charities to other Qualified Donees - 2012 More from the T3010-13 on political activities
If you are interested in more detailed information on the T3010 or customized analysis using the T3010 and other datasets you should contact Steven Ayer at Common Good Strategies. http://goodstrategy.ca/ Steven is extremely knowledgeable about the T3010 and its uses.

Limitations and Caveats

There are a number of cautions in dealing with the information from the T3010. You can access the CRA Charities Listing database directly on the CRA website at: http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities/ As well, Imagine Canada has a website with a tremendous amount of T3010 information at www.charityfocus.ca

- 1) The data in this note is based on the 2012 T3010 Registered Charity Information Return filings. Although all charities are supposed to file their T3010 within 6 months of their fiscal year end, some charities file late or do not file at all and then will lose their charitable status. Depending on the data set from CRA not every charity may have filed their T3010 or been inputted yet.
- 2) Registered charities complete the T3010 and one person signs the form. The T3010 information is not independently verified by CRA when it is posted on the CRA site or placed in the CRA database.
- 3) Although an important legal document, the T3010 is often completed by volunteers or others who may have little understanding of the nuances of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), limited language skills, may not have easy access to the correct information or are in a hurry to file the form to avoid deregistration. In the case of larger institutions it is typically accountants or finance staff who prepare the T3010. One would expect greater accuracy with the larger institutions. However, as they also tend to be more complicated and involve bigger numbers the likelihood of a significant inaccuracy in their T3010 filings is great.
- 4) The T3010s are filed with CRA and in many cases needs to be coded by hand at CRA which can also introduce mistakes. Only a small number of T3010s have 2D bar code technology which can eliminate most processing errors on CRA's part. Canadian charities still cannot electronically file the T3010. In the 2014 Federal Budget the Canadian government committed funds to allow for electronic filing of the T3010.
- 5) In some cases those completing the T3010 for a charity are deliberately deceptive when completing the T3010. For example, an organizations knows that it has substantial fundraising or political expenses but chooses to put them under charitable activities. Or an organization claims pharmaceuticals that it can purchase for \$50,000 are really worth \$50 million.
- 6) Don't rely on any of this information without checking with the charity and appropriate due diligence as required.
- 7) The T3010 is a tax form which is supposed to be completed according to guidance provided by the CRA in Guide Completing the Registered Charity Information Return (T-4033) and also various other CRA guidances and policies. The information inputted may not conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and many not match what is in a financial statement. You can obtain copies of financial statements, whether audited or not, on any registered charity by requesting the financial statements from CRA. These financial statements are filed with CRA but not placed on the CRA website and they can sometimes add further information.
- 8) Some questions on the T3010 or more prone to error than others. Some questions are complicated, while others are quite straightforward. Some matters are easily quantifiable like value of receipts, while others require

allocation and other subjective measurements. Some questions, like revenue, are answered by almost every charity and if a charity makes a mistake the likelihood is that such a mistake will not have much impact on the bigger picture. On the other hand some numbers like political expenditures by Canadian charities are often incorrectly completed and even one or two charities by mistakenly inserting large numbers in this category can distort the picture.

9) The T3010 asks certain questions. Many important questions are not asked on the T3010. Relying on the T3010 to make decisions on whether a charity is efficient or worthwhile to support is prone to failure. We have established a website at www.smartgiving.ca which discusses in detail questions donors may want to ask before donating to charity.

Mark Blumberg is a lawyer at Blumberg Segal LLP in Toronto. He works almost exclusively in the area of non-profit and charity law. To find out more about legal services that Blumbergs provides to charities and non-profits please visit www.canadiancharitylaw.ca or www.globalphilanthropy.ca

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