



Comparison of the CRA's Charities Listing and Blumbergs' CharityData.ca

By Mark Blumberg (June 9, 2019)

With the recent changes in May 2019 in which CRA removed about 10 years public information from the Charities Listing, the differences between the CRA's Charities Listing and the Blumbergs' CharityData.ca portal have grown. This article will try to show you some of the major differences between the two databases.

For serious researchers who are spending months or even years researching a charity or the sector or subsector, neither of these databases is probably going to be adequate and you can also request data from CRA and documents and these may be helpful. It can take a few weeks for CRA to fulfil those requests.

The Charities Listing "[Basic Search](#)" only allows for searching by name and by status but with the "[Advanced Search](#)" you can search by a number of other parameters.

For the most up-to-date information on a particular charity, including whether a charity is still registered you should use the CRA Charities Listing. However, for analyzing the past data of charities or sorting charities [CharityData.ca](#) is much easier to use and has far more data.

Keep in mind that both databases are only of registered charities and RNASOs and that other qualified donees you need to go to other lists and unfortunately there is no public list of non-profits that are not registered charities.

As we note in our old FAQ for CharityData.ca

[Isn't this website just the same as the CRA website?](#)

No. The CRA website is an official website of the Canadian government and can be relied on for example to show that a charity is currently registered charity. It has fancy logos and nice pictures. Our website relies on past historical information from the CRA and therefore some of the charities on our website may have even lost their registered charity status. We encourage people to check out both websites and in fact we have a link on the bottom of every page to each of the registered charities own CRA page on the CRA website which in some cases will have more up-to-date or extensive information on a particular charity. CharityData.ca has over thirty search or filtering abilities, many of which the CRA Charities Listing does not have. For example, our website allows you to search which directors serve on which charities and the CRA website does not allow for that. Some registered charities give out hundreds of gifts to qualified donees - the CRA sorts them by the order they are provided and we sort them from highest amount to lowest. Do you really want to scroll through hundreds of small donations to see the main large donations of a charity in a particular year? We provide the largest 100 donations in each year from largest to smallest. We have under the tab "fundraising" listed registered charities that have provided a gift to this charity, not just the registered charities that have received a gift from this charity. It makes it much easier to see flows of money within the charity sector. Also we have heard from many people that the user interface on our website is far superior to that of the CRA website but please don't take our word for it check out CharityData.ca for yourself!

There is more information on the FAQ at <https://www.charitydata.ca/faq/>

When you are sorting by about 25 categories on the CharityData.ca website you can do it either by ascending or descending order.

[CharityData.ca](https://www.charitydata.ca/) is part of the Sean Blumberg Transparency Project which 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 has been releasing information on the Canadian charity sector to provide a better understanding of the size, scope, complexity and challenges of the sector.

	Charities Listing	Same	CharityData.ca
Search by registered charity name		Same. But on CharityData you can search Name/BN/Activity all together	
Know whether registered charity is still registered charity	Only Charities Listing is up-to-date. CharityData can have charities up to 1 year after they are revoked (still helpful for looking at recently revoked charities)		
Search by charity status (registered, revoked, revoked-audit, etc)	You can only do this on the Charities Listing as CharityData only has registered charities (that were registered as of 1 or so years ago) The Charities Listing has information on about 40,000 previously registered charities that are not on CharityData		
Nice pie charts	Only on Charities Listing		
Nice revenue/expenditure graph			Only on CharityData.ca
Search by BN		Both	
Search by effective data of status	Only on Charities Listing – very helpful for seeing recent changes		

	Charities Listing	Same	CharityData.ca
Sanction (Penalized, Suspend)	Only on Charities Listing		
Designation – sort by	Only on Charities Listing		
Designation – information on whether charitable organization, public foundation and private foundation		Both	
City		Same. But on CharityData you can actually see names of cities (don't have to guess).	
Province - sort		Same	
Postal Code	Only on Charities Listing		
"Charity Type"	Only on Charities Listing. 4 Heads of charity.		
Category Search		On both databases but CRA calls it "Category Search" and CharityData calls is Charity Type. Not very helpful categories and selection is weak. Some categories like religious groups may be useful	
Activity - search			Only on CharityData.ca – very helpful when searching name and

	Charities Listing	Same	CharityData.ca
			activity together to isolate larger number of charities than if just searching by name
Directors names - listing		Same	
Director search			Only on CharityData.ca The Director Search function of CharityData.ca allows users to search over 600,000 directors by their first and last names and it is the only publicly available and up-to-date tool for searching them.
Program Description		Same	
Telephone number of charities	Only on Charities Listing when provided by registered charity		
Staff and Compensation		Same	
Website Address		Same	
Mailing Address of Charity		Same	
Which registered charities gave to this particular charity			Only on CharityData.ca While it is easy to see what gifts a charity gives to other charities on the CRA website but what if you want to know which charities gave funds to a particular

	Charities Listing	Same	CharityData.ca
			charity? Now you can do this on CharityData.ca by looking under the "Fundraising" tab.
Search by revenue (all charities in certain bands of revenue)			Only on CharityData.ca
Total assets (4200) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total liabilities (4350) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total revenue (4700) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total expenditures (5100) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Receipted donations (4500) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total amount received from other charities (4510) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total amount of tax-receipted gifts-in-kind (580) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Revenue from sale of goods and services (4640) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total revenue received from federal			Only on CharityData.ca

	Charities Listing	Same	CharityData.ca
government (4540) - sort			
Total revenue received from provincial / territorial governments (4550) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total revenue received from municipal / regional governments (4560) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total tax-receipted revenue from outside Canada (4571) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total non tax-receipted revenue from outside Canada (4575) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total Advertising and promotion (4800) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Occupancy costs (4850) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Professional and consulting fees (4860) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total expenditures on charitable activities (5000) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total expenditures on management and administration (5010) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca

	Charities Listing	Same	CharityData.ca
Total expenditures on fundraising (5020) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada (5030) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total other expenditures (5040) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total amounts paid to external fundraisers (5460) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total compensation expenditures (390) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Total Expenditures Outside of Canada / Foreign Activities (200) - sort			Only on CharityData.ca
Link to CanadaHelps website if you wish to donate to the charity			Only on CharityData.ca
Good FAQ with detailed information on the limitations of the database and some humour			Only on CharityData.ca

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