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RESEARCH NOTE

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Canadian Registered Charities Statistics

An examination of CRA data

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Introduction

According to some sources, Canada's social sector is estimated to comprise roughly 161,000 charitable and nonprofit organizations (Gumulka, Barr, Lasby and Brownlee, 2005). This number increases to more than 170,000 registered charities and nonprofits, including more than 86,000 charities (Imagine Canada, 2021). An additional 80,000-100,000 can be added for nonprofits that are not registered charity (Blumberg, 2023). Based on most recent data, the estimate is a total of 170,000-190,000 organizations in social sector. In terms of economic contribution to the country, Imagine Canada (2021) estimate the nonprofit sector at 8.7% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or 189 billion dollars which employs 2.5 million people.

The lack of exhaustive information on the nonprofit sector, and its organizations, makes it difficult to determine the full size and scope of the sector (Blumberg, 2023). However, information on the 85,639 registered charities in Canada is available. Notably knowing how many registered charities are active in Canada is an ongoing question. The research question then becomes: What are the available statistics on Canadian registered charities? Here, Blumberg (2023) provide some key statistics, but they are, however, based on a snapshot of the 2020 T3010 up to March 2022, which present its own limitations (Blumberg and Pasha, 2023a).

As part of a mapping exercise, this research note presents some key statistics regarding registered charities based on the T3010 Information return from Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The objective: provide a brief presentation of some statistics and follow various variables on registered charities listed on the CRA's website. This may further support stakeholders interested in the size, types, and location of registered charities in Canada by providing systematic and focus information.

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After explaining the methodology behind the mapping exercise and accounting for the registered charities, statistics will be presented on the type of qualified donees (registered charity, registered Canadian amateur athletic association (RCAAA) and registered national arts service organization (RNASO)); the designation (charitable organization, private foundation, public foundation); the province; the territory; outside of Canada; the charity type / objects of charitable purposes (relief of poverty, advancement of education, advancement of religion, other purpose beneficial to the community) and the category for each charity type / objects of charitable purposes; the status (registered, revoked, annulled) and finally the sanction (penalized, suspended).

Methodology and Mapping Exercise

Data was obtained through the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA, 2023a) list of charities website. The data transmitted by organizations to the CRA is from the T3010 for the Registered Charity Information Return, required for all registered charities operating in Canada, and from the T2052 for the Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Association Information Return.

Using the advanced search on CRA (2023a) *List of charities and certain other qualified donees's* website, some variables were used in searching for statistics regarding registered charities. The selected variables are the type of qualified donees (registered charity, registered Canadian amateur athletic association (RCAAA) and registered national arts service organization (RNASO)); the designation (charitable organization, private foundation, public foundation); the province; territory; outside of Canada; the charity type / objects of charitable purposes (relief of poverty, advancement of education, advancement of religion, other purpose beneficial to the community); the category for each charity type / objects of charitable purposes; the status (registered, revoked, annulled) and finally possible sanctions (penalized, suspended). Other potential variables on the CRA website are available, but not selected. They are the organization name, the BN/Registration number, the city, and the postal code.

The qualified Canadian journalism organization (QCJO) are not included in this research note, as it is not part of the CRA's website. For more information, see Hibon, Lindgren and Krynitzki (2023).

Blumberg and Pasha (2023b) have produced a summary chart based on the 2020 T3010 filings with information on total assets, total liabilities, receipted revenue, total revenue, charitable expenditures, total expenditures and total compensation, in addition to the number of charities for each category. The CRA (2023b) provides in one of their report some information based on the 2019 T3010 filings. This research note is based on the current data available as of December 2023, assuming everything is up to date.

Important notice: Data for this research note was collected on December 20-22, 2023.



Registered Charities

The Canadian registered charity is governed by the *Income Tax Act* (ITA) rules. Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) describes a “registered charity” as an organization established that operates exclusively for charitable purposes. Charity “means a charitable organization or charitable foundation” (ITA 149.1(1)).

Innes and Boyle (2006, p.8-9) summarize three main elements required to qualify as a charitable organization. First, “all of the resources of the organization are devoted to the charitable activities that it carries on itself” (p.8). Second, “no part of the income of the organization may be payable to or otherwise available for the personal benefit of any proprietor, member, shareholder, trustee or settler of the organization” (p.9). Third, “a charitable organization must meet an arm’s length and absence of control test with respect to major donors” (p.9).

“It is well established in law that all organizations that want to be registered as a charity under the Act must ensure that their purposes are directed to the public benefit. This requirement attaches to all categories of charity. However, those organizations whose purposes are directed to the relief of poverty face a somewhat less rigorous public benefit review, though only for the second part of the test - the question of who will benefit.

The requirement of public benefit involves the application of a two-part test, each part having a somewhat different application to the four categories of charity:

- The first part of the test generally requires that a tangible benefit be conferred, directly or indirectly. (More recently, and in the Canadian context, this requirement has also been described as an ‘objectively measurable and socially useful benefit’)
- The second part of the test requires that the benefit have a public character, that is, be directed to the public or a sufficient section of the public” (CRA, 2006)

Three types of registered charities exist in Canada: charitable organization, public foundation, private foundation (ITA 248(1)) (Brouard, 2023). Essentially, in theory, charitable organizations are operating charities and charitable foundations that are funding organizations.

Charitable foundations are subdivided into public foundation and private foundation.

- public foundation
Public foundation means a foundation where more than 50% of its board operating at arm’s length and no *de facto* or *de jure* control by a person who has donated more than 50% of its capital (major donor) (Innes and Boyle, 2006; ITA 149.1(1)).
- private foundation
“Private foundation means a charitable foundation that is not a public foundation” (ITA 149.1(1)).



As funding organizations, charitable foundations do not need to carry out the charitable activities themselves. “Charitable foundation means a corporation or trust that is constituted and operated exclusively for charitable purposes, no part of the income of which is payable to, or is otherwise available for, the personal benefit of any proprietor, member, shareholder, trustee or settler thereof, and that is not a charitable organization” (ITA 149.1(1)).

Type of Qualified Donee

Qualified donee

On CRA’s (2023a) website, qualified donees are classified between registered charity, registered Canadian amateur athletic association (RCAAA) and registered National arts service organization (RNASO). Table 1 presents the statistics by type of qualified donees.

Table 1 - Type of qualified donees

	Number	%
Registered charity	85,467	99.80%
RCAAA (Registered Canadian amateur athletic association)	142	0.17%
RNASO (Registered National arts service organizations)	30	0.03%
Total	85,639	100%

However, even only if a subset is reported in this report, many more organizations qualify. Per CRA (2011), “Qualified donees are as follows:

- a registered charity (including a registered national arts service organization)
- a registered Canadian amateur athletic association
- a registered journalism organization
- a registered housing corporation resident in Canada constituted exclusively to provide low-cost housing for the aged
- a registered Canadian municipality
- a registered municipal or public body performing a function of government in Canada
- a registered university outside Canada, the student body of which ordinarily includes students from Canada
- a registered charitable organization outside Canada to which His Majesty in right of Canada has made a gift
- His Majesty in right of Canada, a province, or a territory
- the United Nations and its agencies

His Majesty in right of Canada, a province, or a territory, and the United Nations and its agencies are qualified donees that do not have to be registered to be recognized as such.”

RCAAA – Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Association

Per *Income Tax Act* rules (149.1(1)), *Canadian amateur athletic association (CAAA)* (association canadienne de sport amateur) means:

“an association that

- (a) was created under any law in force in Canada,
- (b) is resident in Canada,
- (c) has no part of its income payable to, or otherwise available for the personal benefit of, any proprietor, member or shareholder of the association unless the proprietor, member or shareholder was a club, society or association the primary purpose and primary function of which was the promotion of amateur athletics in Canada,
- (d) has the promotion of amateur athletics in Canada on a nationwide basis as its exclusive purpose and exclusive function, and
- (e) devotes all its resources to that purpose and function”.

Per Canada Revenue Agency (2018), a “Canadian amateur athletic association is created and resident in Canada with the exclusive purpose and exclusive function to promote amateur athletics in Canada on a nation-wide basis. It must devote all its resources to that purpose and function”.

“A Canadian amateur athletic association is eligible for registration by the Canada Revenue Agency. Once registered, it can issue official donation receipts for income tax purposes for gifts from individuals and corporations, and receive gifts from registered charities.” (Canada Revenue Agency, 2018)

Lists of Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Association (RCAAA) and some financial information are provided in Brouard, Webb and Pilon (2022) and Blumberg (2024).

RNASO – Registered National Arts Service Organization

Per *Income Tax Act* rules (149.1(6.4)), *National arts service organizations (NASO)* (organisme de services nationaux dans le domaine des arts) means:

“Where an organization that

- (a) has, on written application to the Minister of Communications describing all of its objects and activities, been designated by that Minister on approval of those objects and activities to be a national arts service organization,
- (b) has, as its exclusive purpose and its exclusive function, the promotion of arts in Canada on a nation-wide basis,
- (c) is resident in Canada and was formed or created in Canada, and
- (d) complies with prescribed conditions”

Per CRA (2023c), “[a]n arts organization that wants to issue tax receipts for donations it receives must become registered with the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) as a qualified donee. To do this, the organization must first apply to the Minister of Canadian Heritage to become designated as a National arts service organization (NASO). If the

organization qualifies as a NASO, the Minister of Canadian Heritage will inform the organization and forward the necessary documentation to the CRA for consideration as a registered national arts service organization.”

“To qualify for registration with the CRA, the national arts service organization must:

- be created and be resident in Canada
- be formed and operated exclusively to promote the arts on a nation-wide basis
- meet the criteria similar to that of a registered charity” (CRA, 2023c)

“To be registered by the CRA, the organization must also:

- make no part of its income payable to, or available for the personal benefit of, any owner, member, shareholder, trustee, or settler (exceptions include payments for an amount in respect of a scholarship, bursary, or services rendered)
- devote all of its resources to the purposes (objects) and activities described in its application for registration
- have more than 50% of its directors, trustees, officers, or other officials deal with each other at arm's length
- have no more than 50% of its property, at any time, contributed or paid by one person or members of a group of persons who do not deal with each other at arm's length. Exceptions include:
 - His Majesty in right of Canada, a province, or a territory
 - a municipality
 - a registered charity that is not a private foundation
 - any non-profit organization.” (CRA, 2023c)

“In addition to the above, a registered national arts service organization must limit its activities to the following which are described in more detail in Regulation 8700 of the *Income Tax Act*:

- promoting one or more art forms
- conducting research into one or more art forms
- sponsoring arts exhibitions or performances
- representing interests of the arts community or a sector of it (but not of individuals)
- conducting workshops, seminars, training programs, and similar development programs for members of the organization
- educating the public about the arts community
- organizing and sponsoring conventions, conferences, competitions, and special events
- conducting arts studies and surveys of interest to members of the organization
- acting as an information centre by maintaining resource libraries and data bases
- disseminating information
- providing scholarships, bursaries, and awards” (CRA, 2023c)



“Only once the organization has been granted registration by the CRA, is it allowed to issue official donation receipts. A registered national arts service organization is considered a registered charity for operating purposes under the *Income Tax Act*.” (CRA, 2023c)

Blumberg (2012) reports the list of registered national arts service organization (RNASO), only 24 of them at the time compared to 30 now.

Designation

The types of registered charities (designations) are the charitable organization, private foundation, and public foundation. To determine the designation of a registered charity, the CRA applies some criteria CRA (2016). Appendix A presents the criteria to determine the designation of a registered charity for charitable organization, for private foundation and for public foundation.

Table 2 presents the statistics by type of designation. Tables 3, 4 and 5 present the statistics distributing charitable organization, private foundation and public foundation by provinces and territories.

Table 2 - Registered charity by type of designation

	Number	%
Charitable organization	73,951	86.35%
Private foundation	6,769	7.90%
Public foundation	4,777	5.58%
Unknown type	142	0.17%
total	85,639	100%

Table 3 - Distribution of charitable organization by provinces and territories

Can	Provinces										Territories		
total	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
73,933	10470	8085	3692	4046	26372	13836	2318	3231	534	1087	124	101	37
100%	14.2%	10.8%	5.0%	5.5%	35.7%	18.7%	3.1%	4.4%	0.7%	1.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%

Note: 18 charitable organizations outside of Canada or without provinces / territories

Table 4 - Distribution of private foundation by provinces and territories

Can	Provinces										Territories		
total	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
6,763	1026	807	172	299	3128	1000	101	190	16	20	1	3	0
100%	15.3%	11.9%	2.5%	4.4%	46.3%	14.8%	1.5%	2.8%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Note: 36 private foundations outside of Canada or without provinces / territories



Table 5 - Distribution of public foundation by provinces and territories

Can	Provinces										Territories		
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
total	760	402	195	316	1672	1055	125	159	27	53	7	5	0
100%	15.9%	8.4%	4.2%	6.6%	35.0%	22.1%	2.6%	3.3%	0.6%	1.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%

Note: 1 public foundation outside of Canada or without provinces / territories

Province, territory, outside of Canada

Table 6 presents the statistics of all registered charities, registered Canadian amateur athletic association (RCAAA) and registered national arts service organization (RNASO) by provinces, territories and outside of Canada.

Table 6 - Charities, RCAAA RNASO by provinces, territories and outside of Canada

	Registered charities		RCAAA		RNASO	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
British Columbia (BC)	12,283	14.3%	24	16.9%	1	3.3%
Alberta (AB)	9,315	10.9%	24	16.9%	1	3.3%
Saskatchewan (SK)	4,060	4.7%	2	1.4%	-	0%
Manitoba (MB)	4,666	5.4%	5	3.5%	-	0%
Ontario (ON)	31,244	36.5%	73	51.4%	24	80.1%
Québec (QC)	15,904	18.6%	13	9.2%	2	6.7%
New Brunswick (NB)	2,545	3.0%	1	0.7%	1	3.3%
Nova Scotia (NS)	3,580	4.2%	-	0%	-	0%
Prince Edward Island (PE)	577	0.7%	-	0%	1	3.3%
Newfoundland and Labrador (NL)	1,159	1.4%	-	0%	-	0%
Provinces total	85,333	99.6%	142	100%	30	100%
Yukon (YT)	132	0.2%	-	0%	-	0%
Northwest territories (NT)	109	0.1%	-	0%	-	0%
Nunavut (NU)	37	0.0%	-	0%	-	0%
Territories total	278	0.3%	-	0%	-	0%
Canada total	85,611	100.00	142	100%	30	100%
Outside of Canada	28	0.0%	-	0%	-	0%
Grand total	85,639	100%	142	100%	30	100%

Charity Type / Objects of Charitable Purposes

CRA defines a couple of objects of charitable purposes based on the United Kingdom 1891 court case Pemsel adopted in Canada by the Supreme Court of Canada in Vancouver Society of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women (1999) court case. The courts have consistently reinforced the four categories of objects/purposes of a charity: relief of poverty, advancement of education, advancement of religion and any other purpose beneficial to the community not falling under the other three purposes (Bourgeois, 2002).



“To be eligible for registration under the *Income Tax Act*, a purpose should generally identify three elements either expressly or implicitly through its context:

- the charitable purpose category (relief of poverty, advancement of education, advancement of religion, or certain other purposes beneficial to the community in a way the law regards as charitable)
- the means of providing the charitable benefit
- the eligible beneficiary group” (CRA, 2013)

The Advisory committee on the charitable (ACCS), and more specifically the Definition of charity and charitable purpose working group (DCCPWG), is working to revise the definition of the purpose / object.

This section presents the statistics by charity type / objects of charitable purposes (relief of poverty, advancement of education, advancement of religion, other purpose beneficial to the community), and the category for each charity type / objects of charitable purposes. Blumbergs (2023) offered a CRA Categories List with more details than the Type and Category, but also the Sub-category. The Sub-categories are not available on the CRA (2023) website and therefore are not reported.

Overview of charity type / objects of charitable purposes

Table 7 presents the statistics of charity types (purposes / objects). The most popular is advancement of religion followed by other purpose beneficial to the community, relief of poverty, and advancement of education.

Table 7 - Statistics of charity types / purposes / objects

Types / Purposes / Objects	Number	%
Relief of poverty	11,384	13.29%
Advancement of education	11,134	13.00%
Advancement of religion	32,290	37.71%
Other purpose beneficial to the community	30,830	36.00%
Missing information	1	0.00%
Total	85,639	100%

Relief of poverty

CRA (2013, 2020a) provide some guidance to describe relief of poverty. “Purposes that relieve poverty may be charitable under the first category. Relieving poverty in the charitable sense means providing relief to people experiencing poverty. People experiencing poverty are not only the destitute, but anyone lacking the basic necessities of life, or simple amenities available to the general public. Purposes that relieve poverty should be stated in a way that ensures benefits are provided only to eligible beneficiaries.” (CRA, 2013, #29)



“Examples of purposes that relieve poverty include:

- relieving poverty of persons of low income by providing food and basic healthcare
- relieving poverty of persons who are experiencing poverty by operating a micro lending program for start-up businesses
- relieving poverty of persons who are in need by providing tuition subsidies directly to learning institutions” (CRA, 2013, #31)

Table 8 presents statistics on the list of categories for relief of poverty, with only two categories. Table 9 presents the statistics regarding registered charities dedicated to relief of poverty by provinces and territories.

Table 8 - List of categories for relief of poverty

Categories	Number	%
Foundations relieving poverty	24	0.21%
Organizations relieving poverty	11,360	99.79%
Total	11,384	100%

Table 9 - Distribution of relief of poverty by provinces and territories

Can	Provinces										Territories		
total	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
11,380	1375	940	421	580	3624	3597	312	350	60	89	13	12	7
100%	12.1%	8.3%	3.7%	5.1%	31.8%	31.6%	2.7%	3.1%	0.5%	0.8%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

Note: 4 organizations outside of Canada or without provinces / territories

Advancement of education

CRA (2009, 2013, 2020b) provides some guidance to describe advancement of education. “Purposes that advance education may be charitable under the second category. The advancement of education in the charitable sense includes training that provides knowledge or develops abilities, and that improves a useful branch of human knowledge through research.” (CRA, 2013, #32)

“Examples of purposes that advance education include:

- advancing education by operating a public secondary school in the geographic location of (specify location)
- advancing education by conducting research into (specify topic) and making the results publicly available
- advancing education by providing scholarships based on academic merit to allow high school graduates to attend first-year university” (CRA, 2013, #33)

Table 10 presents statistics on the list of categories for advancement of education, with six categories. Table 11 presents the statistics regarding registered charities dedicated to advancement of education by provinces and territories.



Table 10 - List of categories for advancement of education

Categories	Number	%
Education in the arts	1,728	15.52%
Foundations advancing education	1,043	9.37%
Research	255	2.29%
Support of schools and education	3,810	34.22%
Teaching institutions	3,190	28.65%
Educational organization not elsewhere categorized	1,108	9.95%
Total	11,134	100%

Table 11 - Distribution of advancement of education by provinces and territories

Can	Provinces										Territories		
total	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
11,131	1766	1164	302	554	4057	2486	234	355	62	104	16	22	9
100%	15.9%	10.5%	2.7%	5.0%	36.4%	22.3%	2.1%	3.2%	0.6%	0.9%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%

Note: 3 organizations outside of Canada or without provinces / territories

Advancement of religion

CRA (2002, 2013) provides some guidance to describe advancement of religion. “Purposes that advance religion may be charitable under the third category. Advancing religion in the charitable sense means manifesting, promoting, sustaining, or increasing belief in a religion’s three key attributes, which are: faith in a higher unseen power such as a God, Supreme Being, or Entity; worship or reverence; and a particular and comprehensive system of doctrines and observances.” (CRA, 2013, #34)

“Examples of purposes that advance religion include:

- advancing religion to adherents of the faith or the public by preaching and advancing the teachings of the (specify faith or religion) faith
- advancing religion to adherents of the faith or the public by establishing, maintaining, and supporting a house of worship with services held in accordance with the tenets and doctrines of the (specify faith or religion) faith
- advancing religion to adherents of the faith or the public by supporting and maintaining missions and missionaries to propagate the (specify faith or religion) faith” (CRA, 2013, #35)

Table 12 presents statistics on the list of categories for advancement of religion, with seven categories. The sub-categories regarding religions are Christianity (Adventist, Anglican, Apostolic, Baptist, Catholic, Christ of Christ, Gospel, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mennonite/ Brethren /Hutterite, Orthodox, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Protestant, Salvation Army Temples, United, Other), Islam (Ahmadi, Alevi, Ismaili, Salafi /Wahhabi, Shia, Sufi, Sunni, Other), Judaism (Conservative, Kabbalah, Orthodox, Reform, Other), Other religions (Baha’i, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Other) (Blumbergs, 2023).



Table 12 - List of categories for advancement of religion

Categories	Number	%
Christianity	25,872	80.12%
Islam	510	1.58%
Judaism	397	1.23%
Other religions	1,079	3.34%
Sub-total religions	27,598	86.27%
Ecumenical and interfaith organizations	1	0.00%
Foundations advancing religions	354	1.10%
Support of religions	4,077	12.63%
Total	32,290	100%

Table 13 presents the statistics regarding registered charities dedicated to advancement of religion by provinces and territories.

Table 13 - Distribution of advancement of religion by provinces and territories

Can total	Provinces										Territories		
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
32,285	4235	3890	1915	1808	13026	4193	1082	1194	232	610	49	43	8
100%	13.1%	12.0%	5.9%	5.6%	40.3%	13.0%	3.4%	3.7%	0.8%	1.9%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%

Note: 5 organizations outside of Canada or without provinces / territories

Other purpose beneficial to the community

CRA (2013) provides some guidance to describe other purposes beneficial to the community. "Common law courts have identified various purposes that are beneficial to the community in a way the law regards as charitable under the broad fourth category." (CRA, 2013, #36)

"Examples of purposes that are beneficial to the community in a way the law regards as charitable include:

- promoting health by providing the public with:
 - medical diagnostic services
 - in-patient or out-patient medical care and nursing services
- relieving conditions associated with aging to individuals affected by these conditions by providing:
 - personal care
 - shopping assistance
 - transportation to medical appointments
- advancing the public's appreciation of the arts by providing the public with:
 - high-quality performances of classical choral works
 - free, high-quality theatrical performances" (CRA, 2013, #37)



Table 14 presents statistics on the list of categories for other purposes beneficial to the community, with sixteen categories, including the RCAA and RNASO. Five are related to health care, two to arts. Public amenities include sub-categories such as aquarium, archives, art gallery, botanical garden, camps / recreation, cemetery (secular), community centre / hall, hall of fame, heritage / historical site, library, memorial, museum, national and provincial parks, nature centre / society /trails, performing arts centre / facility, public recreation / arenas / parks / playgrounds / pools, zoo / zoological society (Blumbersg, 2023).

Table 15 presents the statistics regarding registered charities dedicated to other purposes beneficial to the community by provinces and territories.

Table 14 - List of categories for other purpose beneficial to the community

Categories	Number	%
Core health care	3,251	10.54%
Health care products	15	0.05%
Complementary or alternative health care	141	0.46%
Protective health care	408	1.32%
Supportive health care	2,086	6.77%
Sub-total health care	5,901	19.14%
Arts	2,681	8.70%
RNASO (Registered National arts service organizations)	30	0.10%
Sub-total arts	2,711	8.79%
Agriculture	90	0.29%
Animal welfare	1,058	3.43%
Community resource	4,902	15.90%
Environment	494	1.60%
Foundations	8,675	28.14%
Public amenities	6,353	20.61%
Relief of the aged	455	1.48%
Upholding human rights	49	0.16%
RCAA (Registered Canadian amateur athletic association)	142	0.46%
Total	30,830	100%

Table 15 - Distribution of other beneficial to the community by provinces and territories

Can	Provinces										Territories		
total	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
30,819	4904	3324	1423	1724	10540	5627	917	1681	223	357	54	32	13
100%	15.8%	10.8%	4.6%	5.6%	34.2%	18.3%	3.0%	5.5%	0.7%	1.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%

Note: 11 organizations outside of Canada or without provinces / territories



Status and Sanction

Status - registered, revoked, annulled

The status of a registered charity could be registered, revoked, annulled, penalized, or suspended (based on Brouard, Webb and Pilon (2022)).

Registered

Per Canada Revenue Agency (2018), being registered means “[a]n organization has applied to the CRA and received approval as meeting the requirements for registration as a charity, and has been issued a charitable registration number.”

Revoked

“Registration as a charity or Canadian amateur athletic association (CAAA) has been cancelled and the privileges that go with it have been taken away. The organization can no longer issue official donation receipts and is no longer eligible to receive gifts from registered charities.

Registration as a charity or CAAA is officially revoked when a notice is published in the Canada Gazette. RCAA could be revoked for several reasons (voluntary, as a result of an audit, for failure to file, other reasons). Canada Revenue Agency (2018) provides some definitions of those reasons.

* Revoked voluntary

“Registration as a charity or Canadian amateur athletic association (CAAA) has been cancelled at the charity’s or CAAA’s request. Voluntary revocation may be requested for a number of reasons, such as:

- a lack of available resources
- dissolution of the organization
- a merger or consolidation
- no further need for the organization’s services (for example, the project or program it was established to undertake is complete)
- the organization does not require registered charity status as it is another qualified donee.”

* Revoked as a result of an audit

“Registration as a charity or Canadian amateur athletic association (CAAA) has been cancelled where, following an audit of their operations, it was determined that the charity or CAAA ceased to comply with the requirements for registration (other than failure to file). Generally, charities or CAAAs are revoked where there are severe cases of non-compliance or cases where there is continuous non-compliance.”

* Revoked for failure to file

“Registration as a charity or Canadian amateur athletic association has been cancelled for failure to file an Information Return (Form T3010 or Form T2052 respectively) within six months of the end of its fiscal year.”



* Revoked for other reasons

“Registration as a charity or Canadian amateur athletic association has been cancelled for failure to maintain its corporate status.”

Annulled

Per Canada Revenue Agency (2018), “When a charity's or Canadian amateur athletic association's registration is annulled, it is deemed to have never been registered. Annulments generally occur when registration was granted in error. An organization whose registration has been annulled can no longer issue donation receipts for income tax purposes, and is no longer eligible to receive gifts from registered charities. However, because the registration was granted in error, the CRA considers receipts issued before the date of the notice of annulment to be valid.”

Table 16 presents a summary of each status. Almost all revoked are for failure to file reasons or voluntary, instead of resulting from an audit. Over the years the registered charities have been equal to 134,530 organizations.

Table 16 - Status classification and sanction

Status	Number
Registered	85,639
Revoked	
- revoked voluntarily	23,857
- revoked as a result of an audit	592
- revoked for failure to file	24,125
- revoked for other reasons	98
Total Revoked	48,672
Annulled	219
Total	134,530
Sanction	
Suspended	1
Penalized	3

Table 17 presents the statistics regarding registered charities with revoked status by provinces and territories.

Table 17 - Distribution of revoked status by provinces and territories

Can total	Provinces										Territories		
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
48,577	7189	4654	2633	2271	17444	9692	1377	2137	303	616	89	147	25
100%	14.8%	9.6%	5.4%	4.7%	35.8%	20.0%	2.8%	4.4%	0.6%	1.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%

Note: 185 organizations were located outside of Canada or without provinces / territories



Sanctions – suspended and penalized

Regarding the sanctions, we could find suspended and penalized. Per Canada Revenue Agency (2018), “Certain privileges of a registered charity, registered Canadian amateur athletic association, or other qualified donee have been temporarily taken away because it failed to comply with specific provisions of the Income Tax Act. Although a suspended organization may continue to operate while its privileges are suspended, it is not considered a qualified donee during that time, it cannot issue official donation receipts, and it must inform a donor of its suspension before accepting a gift.”

Penalized associations have had financial penalties imposed on them because they were not complying with specific legislative obligations under the Income Tax Act. Per Canada Revenue Agency (2018), “A financial penalty has been imposed on a charity because it was not complying with specific legislative obligations under the Income Tax Act.”

Conclusion

This research note presents some statistics regarding registered charities based on the advanced search on CRA (2023a) *List of charities and certain other qualified donees* website, data recorded from T3010 and T2052 for the RCAA information returns.

Statistics presented selected variables, such as the type of qualified donee (registered charity, registered Canadian amateur athletic association (RCAA) and registered national arts service organization (RNASO)), the designation (charitable organization, private foundation, public foundation), the province, territory, or outside of Canada, the charity type / objects of charitable purposes (relief of poverty, advancement of education, advancement of religion, other purpose beneficial to the community) and the category for each charity type / objects of charitable purposes, the status (registered, revoked, annulled) and possible sanction (penalized suspended).

This research note will help the stakeholders interested by the size of the registered charities, their types and location in Canada with the most current data available.

Future research may explore each charity type / objects of charitable purposes. It would be useful to access the statistics to all sub-categories, such as the ones found in purposes / objects. For example, it is not possible to know the statistics for each categories specific to each religions in details.

Another limitation is the geographical location reported. Currently, listed is only the location of the head office and not necessarily the geographical coverage. For example, an organization in Ottawa may serve the Ottawa community, the Ontario communities, but also Canada as a whole. It is therefore difficult to get a sense of the regions actually covered in the country.



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Appendix A

Criteria to determine the designation of a registered charity

“To determine the designation of a registered charity, the CRA applies the following criteria:

Charitable organization

- it is established as a corporation, a trust, or under a constitution
- it has only charitable purposes
- it primarily carries on its own charitable activities
- it has more than 50% of its directors, trustees, or like officials dealing with each other at arm's length
- it generally receives its funding from a variety of arm's length donors

Public foundation

- it is established as a corporation or a trust
- it has only charitable purposes
- it generally gives more than 50% of its income annually to other qualified donees, usually other registered charities, but it may carry out some of its own charitable activities
- more than 50% of its directors, trustees, or like officials deal with each other at arm's length
- it generally receives its funding from a variety of arm's length donors

Private foundation

- it is established as a corporation or a trust
- it has only charitable purposes;
- it carries on its own charitable activities and/or it funds other qualified donees, usually other registered charities
- 50% or more of its directors, trustees, or like officials do not deal with each other at arm's length, and/or
- more than 50% of its funding comes from a person or group of persons that control the charity in any way or make up more than 50% of the directors, trustees, or like officials of the charity.”

Source: CRA (2016)