

Blumbergs Snapshot of the Canadian Charity Sector 2010

By Mark Blumberg (June 10, 2013)

We recently reviewed the T3010 Registered Charity Information Return database for 2010 as part of the Sean Blumberg Transparency Project. This article provides a snapshot of the registered charity sector based on the 2010 T3010 filings.

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.

Please review the caveats at the end about the reliability and usage of T3010 information.

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.

Place bar code label here

REGISTERED CHARITY INFORMATION RETURN

2010_Master_March_2013

Section A: Identification

1. Charity name:

- 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:

	Ident: 84,137	Finan	ciai: 84,397						
2.	Return for fiscal period er	nding:	3.	BN/registration nun	nber:	4.	Web address (if ap	plicable):	
	Year Month	Day ,			RR		23,656		
٨٠	Marabaraharita irangah				3 12	l 1. didn't fill it ou	ıt	1510 Ye	es No
A1	Was the charity in a sub					ı, qıqı ı, ıiii ii oç	*	15,217	66,059
	Name	———	and bit/registration ne	uniber of the organiz	Editori.		BN (if app		
	Name						Biv (ii app	ilicabic)	
A2	Has the charity wound-	up, dissol	lved, or terminated op	erations?	1,189 didn	't fill it out			es No
АЗ	All charities are designals your organization des							735 1600 Ye	82,473 es No
	(Refer to the Form TF72	•	•	•				9,956	71,911
	package.)							2530 d	didn't fill it out
	If yes, you must comple	ete and at	ttach Schedule 1, <i>Fou</i>	<i>indations</i> , to your re	turn.				
Se	ection B: Directors/trus	tees and	l like officials						
B1	The charity is required t information section on (e.g., with certain other sheet with the same info	the work	sheet is available to the ent departments and a	ne public. The conf i agencies). Use Forr	i dential data sect n T1235, <i>Director</i> s	ion is for the C s/Trustees and	RA's use but may b Like Officials Work	e shared ás pe	rmitted by law
Se	ection C: Programs and	d general	information						
C1	Was the charity active of "Ongoing programs" spa	during the ace provi	e fiscal period? If no , ded at C2	explain why in the		2,053 didr	n't fill it out	75,519 1800 Ye	6,825 es No
C2	In the space provided, of governing documents) to well as through qualified programs (e.g., number "programs" does not income the space of the space	this fiscal d donees r of volunt	period. "Programs" in and intermediaries. T teers and/or hours). G	cludes all of the cha he charity may also rant-making charitie	aritable work the course this space to es should describe	harity carries of describe the c the types of o	out on its own through contributions of its vo organizations they so	h employees o clunteers in car	r volunteers a rying out its
Oı	ngoing programs:		98,73	1 programs in total					
	77,471								
ļ.,									
Ne	ew programs:								
	13,993								
	13,993			NA: 7,267					
				70 117,201					
									7141

	gistered charities may make gifts to qualified donees. Qualified donees are other registered Canadian charities, as well as certain other ganizations described in the <i>Income Tax Act</i> .	
С3	Did the charity make gifts or transfer funds to qualified donees or other organizations? . 621 didn't fill it out	No
	If yes, you must complete and attach Form T1236, Qualified Donees Worksheet/Amounts Provided to Other Organizations, to your return.	
C4	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?	No
	If yes, you must complete and attach Schedule 2, <i>Activities Outside Canada</i> , to your return. 517 didn't fill it out 5,561 78,3	19
A r	registered charity may pursue political activities to retain, oppose, or change the law, policy, or decision of any level of government inside or	
out	tside Canada provided the activities are non-partisan, related to its charitable purposes, and limited in extent.	
C E	(a) Did the charity carry on any political activities during the fiscal period?	291 No
C5	(b) Enter the total amount spent by the charity on these activities	
C6	If the charity carried on fundraising activities or engaged third parties to carry on fundraising activities on its behalf, tick all fundraising methods that it	
50	used during the fiscal period.	
	2500 Advertisements/print/radio/ TV commercials 9,772 [2570] Fundraising sales (e.g., cookies) 16,210 [2620] Telephone/TV solicitations 1	,800
	2510 Auctions 6,163 2575 Internet 3,741 2630 Tournament/sporting events	5,11
	2530 Collection plate/boxes 19,780 2580 Mail campaigns 9,721 2640 Cause-related marketing 64	2
	2540 Door-to-door solicitation 1,625 2590 Planned-giving programs 4,273 2650 Other 11,430	
	2550 Draws/lotteries 7,031 Targeted corporate donations/ 9,651 sponsorships Targeted corporate donations/ 9,651 sponsorships	
	2560 Fundraising dinners/galas/concerts 18,200 2610 Targeted contacts 8,862	339
С7	1 120 didn't fill it out	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	.00
	(b) Enter the amounts paid to and/or retained by the fundraisers	.00
	(c) Identify the method of payment to the fundraiser:	
	2730 Commissions 236 2750 Finder's fees 14 2770 Honoraria 81	
	2740 Bonuses 10 Set fee for services 511 2780 Other 131	
	2790 Specify:	
	(d) Did the fundraiser issue tax receipts on behalf of the charity?	62 No
C8	Did the charity compensate any of its directors/trustees or like officials or persons not at arm's length from the charity for 5,950 77,6	307
00	services provided during the fiscal period (other than reimbursement for out-of pocket expenses)? 840 didn't fill it out	No
C9		No
	If yes, you must complete and attach Schedule 3, <i>Compensation</i> , to your return.	
C10	Did the charity receive any donations or gifts of any kind valued at \$10,000 or more from any donor that was not resident in Canada and was not any of the following:	900 No
	 A Canadian citizen, nor Employed in Canada, nor Carrying on a business in Canada, nor A person having disposed of taxable Canadian property? 	
	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.	· E E
C11		No
•	If ves. you must complete and attach Schedule 5. Non-Cash Gifts. to your return.	70
C12	505 didn't 611 to 24	No
C13	Did the charity allow a donor to use any of the charity's property during the fiscal period? (except for permissible uses)	'91 No
C14	Did the charity issue any of its tax receipts for donations on behalf of another organization?611 didn't fill it out	No 918

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?	,044 Cash
D2 Summary of financial position:	
Using the charity's own financial statements, provide the following: 5,306	16,577
Does the charity own land and/or buildings? 62,514 didn't fill it out 4050 Yes	No
Total assets (including land and buildings) 4200 \$ 267,068,87	77,239.00
Total liabilities	31,695.00
Did the charity borrow from, loan to, or invest assets with any non-arm's length parties?62,943 didn't fill it out 4400 Yes	No 20,745
D3 Revenue: 16,971	5,070
Did the charity issue tax receipts for donations? 62,356 didn't fill it out 4490 Yes	No
If yes, what is the total eligible amount of all donations for which the charity issued tax receipts?	72,306.00
Total amount of 10 year gifts received	
Total amount received from other registered charities. 4510 \$4,357,305	5,721.00
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)	0,323.00
Did the charity receive any revenue from any level of Canadian government? 4,336 Yes 16,738 No 63,323 didn't fill it out	No
If yes , total amount received	23,958.00
Total non tax-receipted amounts from all sources outside Canada (government and non-government)	8,523.00
Total non tax-receipted amounts from fundraising	9,545.00
Total revenue from sale of goods and services (except to any level of Canadian government)	4,414.00
Other amounts not already included in the amounts above. 4650 \$16,131,85	5,667.00
Total revenue (Add lines 4500 to 4650, excluding line 4505)	34,049.00
D4 Expenditures:	
What was the charity's total expenditure on professional and consulting fees?	1,417.00
What was the charity's total expenditure on travel and vehicles?	3,874.00
All other expenditures not already included in the amounts above (excluding gifts to qualified donees)	9,639.00
Total expenditures (excluding gifts to qualified donees) (Add lines 4860, 4810, and 4920)	<u>541,692.0</u> 0
a) How much did the charity spend on charitable programs?	
b) How much did the charity spend on management and administration? 5010 \$18,447,903,008.00	
Total amount of gifts made to all qualified donees	3,901.00
Total expenditures (Add lines 4950 and 5050) 5100 \$ 192,107,580	9,881.00

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.	I 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	ees Worksheet	/Amounts Provided to Other Org	anizations, if required?	
Have you completed Schedule 2, Activities Out	tside Canada, il	required?		
Have you completed Schedule 3, Compensation	on, if required?			
Have you completed Schedule 4, Confidential	Data, if required	1?		
Have you completed Schedule 5, Non-Cash G	ifts, if required?			
Have you completed Schedule 6, Detailed Final	ancial Informatio	on, if required?		
Have you attached a copy of the charity's finan	cial statements	?		

Section E: Certification

				Foundations				Schedule 1		
1	Did the foundation acquire cont	rol of a corpor	ation in the fisc	cal period?		.52,654.didn't f	ill.it out	100	Yes	No
2	Did the foundation incur any de purchasing or selling investmen								52 76 Yes	31,691 31,314 No
For	private foundations only:									
3	At any time during the fiscal per owing to it that meet the definiti						ll jt.out	120	59 Yes	22,314 No
4	Did the foundation own more th	an 2% of any	class of shares	s of a corporation	at any time dur	ing this fiscal p	eriod?	130	Yes	No
	If yes, you must complete and a (Note: Only private foundations					your return. 6	62,028 didn't fill	it out	88	22,281
				Activities Outs	ide Canada				Schedu	ile 2
Foi	or more information about carrying on programs outside Canada see the Charities Directorate website at www.cra.gc.ca/charities							:S		
1							\$ 2,683,	939,974.00		
2	contract, agency agreement, or joint venture to any other individual or entity (excluding gifts to qualified donees)? .52,570							Yes 2,576 e:	No 29,251	
	Name of individua	n	identify	e list on the re country code ves were carried	where	Amount (\$) Show amounts to the nearest single dollar				
								692,914,597	7.00	
								118,231,745	5.00	
								56,756,926	3.00	
3	Using the list on the reverse, ide country codes in the following s		ntries where the	e charity itself car	ried on program	ns or provided a	any of its resour	rces. Enter th	e approp	riate
										30,092
4	Are any projects undertaken ou Canadian International Develop				54,032 didn	't fill it out		220	273 Yes	No
	If yes, what was the total amou	int of funds ex	pended under t	this arrangement?	?			230	\$ 414,2	250,683.00
5	Were any programs carried on	outside Canad	da carried out b	y employees of the	ne charity? 1,35	7 Yes 28,92 ,117 didn't fill it	23 No out	240	Yes	No
6	Were any programs carried on	outside Canad	da carried out b	y volunteers of th	ne charity?. 2,79	9 Yes 27,47 54,120 Nothing	8.No	250	Yes	No
7	Is the charity exporting goods a	s part of its ch	aritable progra	ıms? 404 Yes .	29,946		047 didn't fill it o	out 260	Yes	No
	If yes, list the items being expo	rted, their valu	ue, their destina	ation (city/region)	and country co	de.				
	Item	Value	e	Destinat	ion (city/regio	n)	Country code			

COUNTRY CODES

Americas-Central and South RU-Russia Africa IL-Israel AR-Argentina PS-Israeli Occupied Territories RS-Serbia DZ-Algeria BO-Bolivia JO-Jordan TR-Turkey AO-Angola **BR-Brazil** KW-Kuwait UA-Ukraine BW-Botswana QP-Other **CL-Chile** LB-Lebanon 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 CD- Democratic Republic of Congo SY-Syrian Arab Republic BD-Bangladesh EC-Ecuador YE-Yemen EG-Egypt BT-Bhutan SV-El Salvador QO-Other 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 KE-Kenya JM-Jamaica BY-Belarus KG-Kyrgyzstan MX-Mexico LR-Liberia BG-Bulgaria LA-Laos NI-Nicaragua MG-Madagascar DK-Denmark LK-Sri Lanka NE-Niger PA-Panama ES-Spain MY-Malaysia PE-Peru NG-Nigeria FR-France MN-Mongolia RW-Rwanda **UY-Uruguay** GE-Georgia MM-Myanmar (Burma) VE-Venezuela SL-Sierra Leone KP-North Korea **DE-Germany** QM-Other SO-Somalia GB-United Kingdom KR-South Korea SD-Sudan **Americas-North** HR-Croatia PK-Pakistan UG-Uganda PH-Philippines **US-United States of America** IT-Italy 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

	Compensation	Schedule 3				
1 (a	(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 contractors.					
(b	For the ten (10) highest compensated, permanent, full-time positions enter the number falling within each of the following annual compensation categories.					
	305 \$1 - \$39, 999 223,835 310 \$40,000 - \$79,999 61,343 315 \$80,000 - \$	\$119,999 15,438				
	\$20 \$120,000 - \$159,999 4,065 \$160,000 - \$199,999 1,359 \$200,000 -	\$249,999 705				
	\$250,000 - \$299,999 459 \$300,000 - \$349,999 227 \$350,000 a	nd over 343				
2 (a	Enter the number of part-time or part-year (for example, seasonal) employees the charity employed during the fiscal period	1,869,507				
(b	What was the total expenditure on compensation for part-time or part-year employees in the fiscal period?	\$21,015,312,601.00				
3 W	hat was the charity's total expenditure on all compensation in the fiscal period?	\$108,573,893,573.00				

VN-Vietnam QR-Other

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	Please	provide the	name(s)	and arm's	length sta	itus of exte	ernal fundraiser(s
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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-kind) received for which a tax receipt was issued:	
500 Artwork/wine/jewellery 2,9	Ecological properties 55	Publicly traded securities/mutual funds 1,812
505 Building materials 1,553	530 Life insurance policies 606	Books (literature, comics) 1,573
510 Clothing/furniture/food 4,9	Medical equipment/supplies 597	560 Other 6,139
515 Vehicles 525	Privately-held securities 104	565 Specify:
520 Cultural properties 288	puters and software) 2,532	
2 Indicate the total eligible amount of tax-	receipted non-cash gifts	580 \$ 1,857,390,125.00

	Detailed Financial Information	Sched	ule 6
Was the financial information reported below prepared on an	accrual or cash basis?7,149 didn't fill it out 4020		Cash
Statement of financial position		46,204	31,044
Show figures to the nearest single dollar.			
Assets:	Liabilities:		
Cash, bank accounts, and short-term investments 4100	\$32,728,499,283.00 Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		7,293,628.00
Amounts receivable from non-arm's length parties 4110	\$ 5,295,297,539.00 Deferred revenue	4310 <u>\$36,67</u>	0,578,062.00
Amounts receivable from all others	\$18,213,418,311.00 Amounts owing to non-arm's length parties		7,396,912.00
Investments in non-arm's length parties 4130	\$ 1,976,439,301.00 Other liabilities		3,520,503.00
Long-term investments	\$54,564,847,831.00 Total liabilities (add lines 4300 to 4330)	4350 \$ 151,85	54,561,695.00
Inventories	<u>\$ 2,553,287,101.0</u> 0		
Land and buildings in Canada	<u>\$144,002,176,440.0</u> 0		
Other capital assets in Canada	\$60,458,351,206.00		
Capital assets outside Canada	\$ 75,397,606.00		
Accumulated amortization of capital assets	\$-61,523,791,316.00 \$ 14 807 124 373 00 Amount included in lines 4150, 4155, 4160,		
Other assets	4165 and 4170 not used in charitable	40E0 (
10 year gifts	programs	4250 \$ 16,256	6,586,928.00
Total assets (add lines 4100 to 4170)	\$ 267,068,877,239.00		
Statement of operations			
Revenue:			
Total eligible amount of all gifts for which the charity issued to	ay recaints	4500 \$13.50	1,372,306.0
Total eligible amount of tax-receipted tuition fees			.,0.2,000.0
Total amount of 10 year gifts received			
	4303 423,310,414.00	4510 \$ 4.357	7,305,721.0
_	ued by the charity	+ 1,001	8,130,323.0
-		· 2,010	1,464,228.0
Total revenue received from provincial/territorial government	S	+ 0,00	53,216,244.
		- 120,70	0,790,200.00
			2,178,523.00
Total interest and investment income received or earned			7,934,397.00
Gross proceeds from disposition of assets	4590 \$ 8,116,638,764.00	<u> </u>	,954,597.00
	mount with brackets)	4600 \$ 808	3,217,975.00
, , ,			,617,357.00
	, and association fees		5,636,880.00
Total non tax-receipted revenue from fundraising			7,909,545.00
Total revenue from sale of goods and services (except to gove	vernment)	10.10	5,084,414.0
	······		1,855,667.0
Specify type(s) of revenue included in the amount reported a			
Total revenue (add lines 4500, 4510 to 4580, and 4600 to	4650)	4700 \$ 207,34	43,384,049.00
Expenditures:			
•		4800 \$ 1,169	9,448,943.0
Travel and vehicle expenses		4810 \$ 2,013	3,583,874.0
Interest and bank charges			3,575,339.0
Licences, memberships, and dues			9,917,092.0
Office supplies and expenses			4,901,685.0
			<mark>7,689,518.0</mark>
			<u>1,521,417.0</u>
Education and training for staff and volunteers			7,140,215.0
Total expenditure on all compensation (enter the amount rep	orted at line 390 in Schedule 3, if applicable)		00,614,993
Fair market value of all donated goods used in charitable pro	grams	4890 \$ 1,59	1,576,658.0

Total cost of all purchased supplies and assets.

\$ 14,257,312,721.00

Amortization of capitalized assets	\$ 3,262,727,059.00 \$ 30,518,979,639.00
Lines 5000 to 5040 represent a breakdown of the expenditures on lines 4800 to 4920. The total of lines 5000 to 5040 should equal line 4950.	
Total expenditures on charitable programs	\$18,447,903,008.00 \$2,283,608,875.00 \$95,011,034.00 \$12,705,487,248.00 \$5,766,313,901.00
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	
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	\$ 5,524,411.00
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. 5910	+00,200,000,710.00

www.canadiancharitylaw.ca

Further information

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

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?

<u>Transparency - What can the Charities Directorate of CRA disclose about registered charities?</u>

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

How to Decide Which Charity to Support

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.

www.canadiancharitylaw.ca

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 2011 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.
- 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

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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, Ontario. 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.qlobalphilanthropy.ca

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