



# News Release

## Donate wisely and avoid fraud

Ottawa, Ontario, March 31, 2008... As the regulator of registered charities in Canada under the *Income Tax Act*, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) wants charitable donors to be informed. The CRA suggests that, to avoid fraud, donors should learn and confirm before donating, and then take action.

### Learn and confirm

- Confirm that a charity that claims to be registered with the CRA is in fact registered. Consult the CRA Charities Listings at [www.cra.gc.ca/donors](http://www.cra.gc.ca/donors) or call 1-800-267-2384.
- Confirm that you will receive an official donation receipt if you want to claim a tax credit.
- Make sure you know who you are donating to. Sometimes fraudulent charities use names that are similar to well-known and respected charities.
- Beware of schemes that promise you tax savings greater than your donation, which would let you profit from donating to a registered charity.

### Take action

- Write cheques payable to the charity, not to an individual. Make sure that your online payments are secure.
- Refuse to donate if there are signs of fraud, such as inappropriate pressure to give immediately or being offered a receipt for more than you actually donate.
- Report fraud to PhoneBusters, the Canadian Anti-fraud Call Centre, at 1-888-495-8501.

To share these messages and other helpful information, the CRA has developed a donor Web site that includes information on **regulating charities**, **donating wisely**, and using the searchable **listing of Canadian registered charities**. The CRA encourages donors to use these resources in order to reduce their risk of fraud. For more information, visit [www.cra.gc.ca/donors](http://www.cra.gc.ca/donors) or call 1-800-267-2384.

March is Fraud Prevention Month in Canada and around the world. Visit [www.phonebusters.com](http://www.phonebusters.com) to learn more about the dangers of fraud, and how you can recognize it, report it, and stop it.

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