



News release

The Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn announces the launch of Webinar pilot project for charities

Ottawa, Ontario, June 3, 2009. . . The Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture and Agri-food), is pleased to announce the launch of pilot Charities Information Webinars as part of the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) Small and Rural Charities (SARC) Initiative.

"The CRA recognizes the unique needs of small and rural charities and is providing another useful learning tool for Canadian charities," said Minister Blackburn. "We know that the majority of charities are small, and operate through the goodwill of volunteers who give their time and passion to work for a charity they believe in. The Government of Canada will continue to listen and to respond to the needs of these charities in support of the valuable services they provide in communities across Canada."

Beginning in the fall of 2009, the CRA will offer registered charities four information Webinars a month, two in French and two in English, on a variety of subjects. The pilot project will last for one year and provide a convenient interactive forum for registered charities to get the information they need to comply with the tax rules for registered charities.

The CRA already distributes educational material for charities through many communication channels, such as the CRA Web site, publications, charities information sessions, mailings, and its electronic distribution list. The charities information Webinars will be another way for charities to learn about their requirements under the *Income Tax Act* and an opportunity to communicate with the CRA. The charities information Webinars will not replace the charities information sessions, simply complement them, and allow CRA to be more accessible, particularly to outlying charities.

The CRA is continuously creating more ways to reach out to registered charities to help them understand their roles and responsibilities, and to make sure that they meet all of their obligations under the *Income Tax Act*.

As part of the SARC initiative to better understand the unique needs and compliance challenges of small and rural charities, all charities will have access to the charities information Webinars through high-speed or dial-up Internet service. The Webinars will be recorded and some will be converted to Webcasts, which will be available from the CRA Web site. Also, the schedule for the Webinars will be available on the CRA Web site.

To get more information on the pilot charities information Webinars, select "Outreach and communications" from the Topics menu at www.cra.gc.ca/charities.

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