

How to tell if your organization is a Registered Charitable Organization

If your organization has been granted charitable status, it will have been issued a Notification of Registration by the Canada Revenue Agency (formerly Revenue Canada or the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency). It will also have been issued an official Business Number (BN) with a charitable registration suffix. These are not the same as a fundraising registration number issued by the province or municipality. If you think that your organization is a registered charitable organization there are three ways of checking:

1. Notice of Registration

- Check to see if you can find a Notification of Registration form in your files or other records.
- If you are unable to locate your Notification of Registration, check with other board members, your Executive Director, or your organization's lawyer.

2. Business Number

- If you can't find a Notification of Registration, check to see if your organization has been issued a Business Number (BN).
- If your organization has a Business Number, check to see if it contains the letters RR plus four numbers (eg RR0001). If so, your organization has been registered as a charitable organization.

3. Charitable Organizations Registry

- The Canada Revenue Agency Charities Directorate website lists Canadian registered charitable organizations.
- Search online at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/chrts/menu-eng.html. If your organization is not listed on the site, it was never registered or its charitable status has been revoked.

Even if your organization was registered as a charity, it may have been struck from the registry.

- Check to see if your organization's charitable status has been revoked by searching online at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/chrts/menu-eng.html. Since this is only a list of recently revoked organizations, you may not find your organization listed if its charitable status was revoked some time ago.
- If you are still in doubt about whether your organization is a registered charitable organization or whether its registration is still active, call the Charities Division of the Canada Revenue Agency or talk with your organization's lawyer.

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