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# DICTIONARY OF CHARITABLE TERMS





Executive Director

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Charity Sector in Canada is very large. It has developed complex rules, procedures, and products as a regulated industry. Along with this has come its own vocabulary and definitions that its donors and grantmakers must learn. Many acronyms, initials, and buzzwords are used in the industry, making it difficult to interpret the meaning behind the terms used in the charity sector.

This report presents a plain-language explanation of the most common terms and expressions used in the industry, including phrases and terminology related to fundraising. The goal is to define many of the terms encountered in charitable giving.

Understanding and utilizing the right terminology can be crucial to a charity and its employees' success, especially when it comes to fundraising. For donors, appreciation for the terms and phrases helps to make a better charitable decision.

We hope this collection helps you better understand the industry, improve your communication, and allows a greater impact on your donations.

#### **Principle contents of the Report**

- Included is terminology used by Charitable Organizations when completing their annual T3010 regulatory filings.
- > We have included many terms used by the Insurance industry that are relevant to the Charity Sector.
- > Popular industry association acronyms are included.
- > The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is the sector's regulator. We draw on the CRA's definitions that are included in their oversight activity.
- > The CRA issues guidance on several issues that are relevant to Charitable Organizations. We include relevant guidance in the following areas:
  - •Charitable Tax Receipting
  - •Definition of Charity
  - •Definition of a Charitable Organization
  - •Definition of a Gift
  - •Definition of a Public Benefit
  - •Definition of a Qualifying Disbursement
  - •Calculation of the Disbursement Quota
  - •Relationship with Non-Qualified Donees

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We will participate in a thriving Canadian philanthropic sector where the most impactful charities with the highest governance standards are celebrated and supported by donor capital.

#### **Our Mission**

The Veritas Foundation aims to be Canada's authoritative source for participating in the country's charitable sector and evaluating its effectiveness and impact.



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