



Wise Charity Giving Tips

You should always ask questions before giving to a charity so you can feel confident about your decision to donate. Therefore, when a charity calls or comes to your door, you may want to ask some or all of the following questions:

- What is the full name of the charity?
 - Is the charity a "registered charity"? If so, what is the charity's registration number?
 - Will I get a receipt for income tax purposes for my donation?
 - What is the mission and goal of the charity?
 - What activities does the charity do?
 - Can you send me more information before I donate? Does the charity have a mailing list or newsletter to which I can subscribe?
- Take your time and don't be pressured into contributing immediately. Take a day or two to consider the offer. Donors can always send in their contributions later. The faster the sales pitch, the more donors should resist.
 - Get information. Ask to see a brochure or other document, while understanding that smaller charities may not have the resources to print glossy material or give out brochures to everyone. If in doubt, check the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca. If you know the name of the charity, click the underlined "Search" and type in the name. Once located, the charity's mandatory returns to the CRA are available to view. At the same site, you can also search on the over 80,000 charities in Canada.
 - Ask how the fund-raiser is being paid. Percentage-based compensation (taking a percentage of each contribution received) often leads to very high fund-raising costs and little of the gain will be used for charitable purposes. Professional fund-raisers are ethically bound not to be paid on a percentage basis. Also, ask for identification or proof of charity affiliation.
 - If you have made a charitable donation but haven't received a tax receipt, ask why not? Contact Canada Revenue Agency if you have a concern.

The Collingwood General & Marine Hospital Foundation (CGMHF) is an adherent of Imagine Canada's Ethical Fundraising Code and has adopted the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy's **Donor Bill of Rights** and **Code of Professional Standards** (these can be viewed on our website www.cgmhf.com). We do not solicit door to door and all fundraising is approved by the Foundation Board of Directors. If you have any questions, please contact Jory Pritchard-Kerr, Executive Director at 705-444-8645 or by email at foundation@cgmh.on.ca. Your questions are important to us.