



The Ontario Genealogical Society

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Charities Directorate
Canada Revenue Agency
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0L5

RE: CRA Consultation on Charitable Political Activities

Dear CRA Officials:

On behalf of The Ontario Genealogical Society, I want to express our appreciation for being able to contribute to the discussion regarding the role that charities should play in political activities.

Charitable organizations play a fundamental role in shaping and supporting the fabric of Canadian society, and as such, their role in presenting the social and political viewpoints of their members on important topics affecting their organizational missions is equally a fundamental responsibility. If the democratically elected leaders of the 83,000 registered charities in Canada cannot speak on the important issues of the day for which they possess unique and qualified expertise, who shall speak for them?

Regulatory or legislative changes intended to arbitrarily place restrictions on the charitable sector is not therefore in the public interest. The Ontario Genealogical Society fully supports Imagine Canada's submission to the Canada Revenue Agency and its recommendations that:

1. The Income Tax Act should be amended to restore an emphasis on charitable purposes, rather than regulating how charities achieve those purposes (activities).
2. These initial amendments to the Income Tax Act to focus on charitable purposes are only a short-term solution to address the limitations on political activity, and therefore serve only as a prelude to broader legal and regulatory reform for the charitable and non-profit sector.
3. There should be clarification of the definition and scope regarding the term "partisan political activity" so that charities can be confident they comply with regulatory guidelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important societal collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Peter D. Taylor, MA
Executive Director
The Ontario Genealogical Society

cc: Ontario Nonprofit Network (info@onn.ca)
Imagine Canada (info@imaginecanada.ca)
Mr. Peter Kent, MP, Thornhill