

"National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" not yet proclaimed by Canadian parliament for March 22

What is "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day"(TM)?

-on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we celebrate the nothing that charity scams add to our society.

- on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we wonder what happens to the billions of dollars raised by charity scams. We just don't know where it ends up. It certainly does not help those in need.

-on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we luxuriate in the "thin soup" legal opinions proffered by some of our largest national law firms that are used to market scams. Perhaps we can have a wine and cheese at some of these firms and you can admire the art on the wall, the expensive suits and the catered food and drink.

--on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we ask that March 22 be officially declared "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day". March 22 is world water day. If the \$2-3 billion lost in government revenue from the \$5 billion in charity scam donations in Canada over the last few years was to be directed to real charities this could provide clean drinking water to 50 million people and avoid hundreds of thousands of needless deaths per year. March 22 also falls at a time when Canadians are preparing their tax returns and about 1 month before many Canadians file their tax returns and it reminds them of the danger posed by abusive charity tax schemes.

-On the other hand we may want to have "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" later in the year, perhaps November 19th would be a good day. November 19 is World Toilet Day. World Toilet Day "raises awareness of the global sanitation crisis and celebrate this humble, yet essential bathroom fixture". And yes "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" would fit well on that day as charity scams are a load of crap.

- on National Avoid a Charity Scam Day we can check out a list of revoked charities to see how much it has grown and we can read the letters from CRA about how much official donation receipts have been issued and how little charitable work has been accomplished.

http://www.globalphilanthropy.ca/index.php/blog/canada_revenue_agency_deregistering_record_number_of_questionable_canadian/ The gold medal winner may be the Millennium Charitable Foundation case – according to CRA "from January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2006 The Millennium Charitable Foundation issued in excess of \$169 million in receipts for cash and property received through tax shelter arrangements. The Charity, in turn, directed \$114 million

of the cash and property to two other registered charities also participating in these arrangements. The audit revealed that the vast majority of the cash sent to the other participant charities was subsequently paid to the promoters. Of the remainder, the Charity itself paid \$33 million in fundraising fees to the tax shelter promoters and retained, but did not disburse, \$21 million in net assets. In fact, it appears that beyond these transfers (i.e., those that the Charity is directed to make by the tax shelter promoters), the Charity has only made a single \$2,200 gift to another qualified donee." Just kidding with that performance they will probably only get a bronze!

- on National Avoid a Charity Scam Day we think about the "sucker" who is born every minute and who believes that you can make a donation for \$10,000 and through various magical tricks you get a receipt for a \$100,000.
- on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we think that maybe we should think twice before hiring professionals and their firms that deliberately set up, advise or prolong charity scams.
- on National Avoid a Charity Scam Day we think about how charity scams have nothing really to do with charities, but deprecate the vitally important good will of charities, and why do a few "charity lawyers" feel the need to be so involved with such schemes?
- on National Avoid a Charity Scam Day we will provide stickers that read "I gave to a real charity that does real charitable work"
- on National Avoid a Charity Scam Day we will provide logos and materials to encourage people to give to legitimate charities.
- on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we will remind Canadians that Canada gives more tax incentives to legitimate gifts to charity than almost any other country (40-60 cents on the dollar) and that charity scams are simply an attempt by certain selfish Canadians to not shoulder their fair share of taxes which results in everyone else having to pay more.
- on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we honour those individuals, organizations and government departments who have tried harm to shut down charity scams.
- on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we will provide kids with lollipops that say "charity scams suck" and "we need more money for quality daycare".
- on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we will send out press releases to all major news outlets reminding them of the dangers of charity scams and encouraging media not to facilitate these scams by allowing them to advertise through the media.

- on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we will highlight the important, often unsung, work of real charities that save lives, improve the quality of our lives, support the environment we live in.

- on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we will go to bed early because we will be very tired after running after our children who have a sugar rush from eating those popsicles.

- on "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day" we will be very disappointed that parliament did not pass our "National Avoid a Charity Scam Day", hey they did not even know about it, but we will be happy that the popsicles tasted so good and that we helped to make the charity sector a sweeter place to be.

Yes, this is a parody. Don't start partying on March 22 yet. But if you are interested in how Canadian charities faired compared to other Western countries in terms of tax evasion and money laundering you may wish to read this OECD report

http://www.globalphilanthropy.ca/index.php/blog/oecd_report_on_abuse_of_charities_for_money_laundering_and_tax_evasion_ca/ In case you did not have time to read the report – Canada does not look so good unless you think that the sign of a good country is abundance of charity scams and tax evasion.

Mark Blumberg is a lawyer at Blumberg Segal LLP in Toronto, Ontario. This article is for information, and perhaps comedic purposes, only. It is not intended to be legal advice. You should not act or abstain from acting based upon such information without first consulting a legal professional.