



Some of the Canadian charities that spend the most on political activities?

By Mark Blumberg (June 17, 2017)

I thought I would try something different. On www.charitydata.ca we have 5GB (that is 5 gigabytes) of text information on all Canadian charities. In some cases it is up to 13 years information on each of the 86,000 Canadian registered charities.

www.charitydata.ca provides an easy to use interface that is far easier to use than the CRA's [Charities Listing](#) to analyse T3010 Registered Charity Information Return data on a particular charity. Please don't take my word for it – do a side by side analysis for yourself between the Charities Listing and www.charitydata.ca. By the way this is not a criticism of CRA – it is just a reality that they have to work off a legacy system with lots of limitations and we don't have to. Thank you to CRA for doing all the hard work of compiling the information and making it freely accessible to anyone who requests it. The CRA obviously takes no responsibility for how people use or display that information.

The site also allows the user to sort charities under "[Advanced Charity Search](#)" by over different 20 criteria.

To create this article I have done something extremely complicated:

- 1) I went to the [Advanced Charity Search](#) page on www.charitydata.ca which is a free portal and the its aim is to increase transparency in the Canadian charity sector.
- 2) I clicked the "SORT RESULTS BY" drop down menu to "total expenditures on political activities inside or outside of Canada".
- 3) I left the Ascending/Descending button as "Descending" because I want to know who spent the most on political activities and not the least (about 85000 charities say they spend nothing on political activities!!)
- 4) I waited about 1/10 of a millisecond and the list of Canadian charities that spent most of their money on political activities appeared.
- 5) I was exhausted by all this hard work so I took a 3 hour nap.
- 6) So now I have a list of Canadian charities that spent the most on political activities and I cut and pasted into a Word document and converted it to a PDF.

Here are some of the Canadian charities that spent the most on political activities. I have removed some seemingly obvious mistakes. (The full list is on the [website](#)). You can click on the blue name of the charity below and obtain a large amount more information on that particular charity

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF CANADA / SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE LA SCLÉROSE EN PLAQUES

We provide information and community resources to those affected by multiple sclerosis (MS). We provide financial assistance for clients to maintain their independence within their community. We facilitate education and support group meetings. We fund research projects at universities and hospitals to find ways to prevent MS, new treatments and discover a cure. We educate all levels of government on the specific issues and needs of Canadians living with MS.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015:

\$1,555,491

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES - FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES MUNICIPALITÉS

FCM represents local government in Canada, offers services to municipalities to improve quality of life. We support local government through overseas work with gov. funding volunteers provide municipal expertise. We provide gifts to qualified donees through grants lends funds to QD at a lower rate than market. We also fund other municipal projects carried out by non qualified donees.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015:

\$1,140,100

UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL OF CANADA INC

The Charity's primary purpose is to conduct social welfare programs in Canada and Israel. For the most part, these programs include resettlement of new immigrants, student scholarships, community rehabilitation projects, services for the needy and infirm, community centres, daycare centres and programs for senior citizens.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015:

\$1,024,742

THE DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION

The David Suzuki Foundation works through science and education to protect the diversity of nature and our quality of life now, and for the future.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015:

\$1,006,582

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/INSTITUTINTERNATIONAL DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

The International Institute for Sustainable Development contributes to sustainable development by advancing policy recommendations on economic law and policy, energy, water, resilience and knowledge for decision-making.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$969,206

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

i. to offer the resources of faith to the people of Canada and Bermuda; ii. to gather people into congregations and local faith communities for the public worship of God and for a witness to justice and service in their communities; and iii, to support relief, development and education initiatives throughout the world, and support partner churches in programmes to proclaim God's love and the teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$937,737

WORLD VISION CANADA-VISION MONDIALE CANADA

World Vision Canada (WVC) is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by Christian values, WVC is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people and it serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender. World vision is an international affiliation with offices in more than 100 countries. Through this partnership and its ability to connect with local communities, WVC helps empower communities to become sustainable.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$798,552

CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY / SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DU CANCER

The Canadian Cancer Society is a national, community-based organization of volunteers whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer. The Society achieves its mission by working to prevent cancer, funding cancer research, informing and supporting Canadians living with cancer and advocating for public policies to improve the health of Canadians.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$731,118

CANADIAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION/ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DIABÈTE

Our mission is to lead the fight against diabetes by helping those affected by diabetes to live healthy lives; preventing the onset and consequences of diabetes and discovering a cure. Programs include but are not limited to: 1) research grants; 2) publications for both health care professionals and the public; 3) camps for children, teens and families with type 1 diabetes; 4) advocacy initiatives to support people living with diabetes; 5) web site; 6) professional conferences; 7) development of national standards for diabetes care (clinical practice guidelines); 8) year-

round education for people living with diabetes and their team of health care providers; 9) 1-800-Banting for support 10) webinars; 11) expos.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$730,856

Organisation Catholique Canadienne pour le Développement et la Paix

L'Organisation a pour objectif de promouvoir la solidarité internationale et le développement humain intégral par un programme d'éducation au Canada et par le financement de projets de développement socio-économique dans les pays en développement.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$669,789

Universities Canada Universités Canada

Universities Canada is the national voice for Canadian universities. Universities Canada represents 97 public and private not-for-profit universities and university degree-level colleges. We are a membership organization providing university presidents with a unified voice and a forum for collective action. We have represented the interests of Canadian universities since 1911. Our mission is to foster and promote the interests of higher education and university research. We participate in the development of public policy to find solutions to the economic and social challenges facing Canada. We work closely with governments, private sector and the public to raise the profile of higher education. Our main membership activities are: advocating for higher education, developing public policy, sharing information on postsecondary education, developing leadership seminars for university leaders, managing scholarships and international programs, publishing reports, publications and an award-winning magazine. We are a non-governmental, not-for-profit membership organization established by an Act of Parliament. We are funded primarily through membership fees, with some career advertisements and publications sales and revenues from contract management services.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$667,000

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL OF GREATER TORONTO

Raise funds for charitable purposes from the Jewish Community in the Greater Toronto area, and abroad, and distribute the funds to various agencies that promote education, and other community related items.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$561,113

FAMILY SERVICE TORONTO

1. Changing lives -

Provide counselling, education seminars and support for individuals and families coping with issues including separation/divorce, depression, sexual orientation and senior care. 2. Family Violence -

Provide individual and group counseling for people experiencing family violence. 3. Community & Neighbourhood Development -

Work with immigrant, refugee and marginalized groups to build strong healthy communities. 4. Social Reform -

Advocate for social policies and programs to eliminate child and family poverty. 5. Options, Passport -

Provide support services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. 6. Employee Assistance Program -

Provide counseling and support services to corporate employees on contract. 7. Research, Evaluation and Planning -

Manage organizational program planning and evaluation, the student placement program and research initiatives.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$477,568

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF CANADA - SOCIETE ALZHEIMER DU CANADA

- Dementia Friends TM, a national awareness/public engagement initiative, funded by the Government of Canada, the aim of which is to create a more aware and informed Canadian population to dispel myths and reduce stigma about dementia by registering one million Dementia Friends by 2017

- assisting provincial Alzheimer Society (AS) organizations to provide current services and educational materials to the public; - administering and funding the AS national peer-reviewed research awards program; -

creating public awareness of the social and personal implications of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; - updating and maintaining the national web site; -

participating in Alzheimer's Disease International.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$445,159

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE DES AFFLUENTS

DISPENSER DES PROGRAMMES DE FORMATION DE NIVEAUX PRIMAIRE, SECONDAIRE, FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE ET FORMATION GÉNÉRALE.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$435,416

PARKINSON CANADA INC.

Parkinson Society Canada (PSC) is a national charity dedicated to raising funds for research that investigates the cause, treatment and cure of Parkinson's disease. PSC increases awareness and understanding of Parkinson's through strategic and effective communications and marketing and provides input into policy developments that affect the quality of life for people living with Parkinson's. In fulfilling its mandate, PSC develops programs and credible material on Parkinson's in both official languages.

es. It also provides services and support to a cross-Canada network of regional partners that deliver programs locally to support people living with Parkinson's, care providers and health care professionals, local long term care homes, support groups, seniors' centres, etc. Services are offered one-to-one and in group settings through a toll free information and referral lines, the website, social media, volunteer and professional staff support.

Total expenditures on political activities, inside or outside Canada 2015: \$420,156

As an aside www.charitydata.ca also has the [Director Search function](#) which allows users to search over 600,000 directors by their first and last names and it is the only publicly available and up-to-date tool for searching directors of Canadian registered charities.

The www.charitydata.ca website is just in its infancy. If you are interested in supporting or sponsoring the website let us know. There is a lot more than can be done but everything requires time or resources.

Some of the improvements include:

- 1) Add more search options
- 2) More frequent updates of the data (typically now only the last year is updated every 6 months).
- 3) Make it available in French
- 4) Put in detailed annotations so people understand more about the data reflected

Hope you find the website helpful.

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