
Cross-border giving FAQ

CAN A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ACCEPT GIFTS FROM U.S. CITIZENS AND PROVIDE A TAX RECEIPT? CAN THE CHARITABLE TAX RECEIPT WE ISSUE BE USED BY THE DONOR?

Community foundations can accept gifts from foreign donors and issue Canadian tax receipts. Charitable tax receipts issued in Canada can only be used to offset Canadian income. So, the tax receipt can only be applied if the donor has Canadian income from employment or other sources.

WHAT ABOUT A CANADIAN WHO WANTS TO DONATE DIRECTLY TO A U.S. CHARITY?

The same rules apply. A charitable tax receipt can only be applied against income earned in the same country. Also, there are some additional considerations for Canadians giving in the U.S.:

“Generally, if you have U.S. income, you can claim any gifts to U.S. charities that would be allowed on a U.S. return. You can claim the **eligible amount** of your U.S. gifts up to 75% of the **net U.S. income** you report on your Canadian return.

However, you may be able to claim the eligible amount of your gifts to certain U.S. organizations up to 75% of your net world income. You can do this if you live near the border in Canada throughout the year and commute to your principal workplace or business in the United States, and if that employment or business was your main source of income for the year. Similarly, your claim will also not be restricted to net U.S. income if your gift is to a U.S. college or university at which you or a member of your family is or was enrolled or if your gift is to a prescribed U.S. university as referenced in the list of [qualified donees](#).” [Source]

CAN A DONOR ADVISED FUNDHOLDER MAKE A GRANT TO A CHARITY OUTSIDE OF CANADA?

For a grant to be made directly to a charitable organization outside Canada, it must be on the CRA list of qualified donees. There is a limited list of qualified donees outside Canada, falling into two categories: [Prescribed universities outside Canada](#) and [Foreign charities that have received a gift from Her Majesty in right of Canada](#).

I UNDERSTAND VANCOUVER FOUNDATION AND WINNIPEG FOUNDATION CAN FACILITATE GIFTS FROM U.S. DONORS INTO CANADA. HOW DOES THAT WORK?

Vancouver Foundation provides American donors with two giving options depending on the type of tax receipt required (U.S. or Canadian). This service is available only to existing funds held at Vancouver Foundation and to members of Community Foundations of Canada.

There are certain restrictions, minimums and costs associated with each option.

For more information please contact Vancouver Foundation’s Donor Services department at (1)604.688.2204 or info@vancouverfoundation.ca

The Winnipeg Foundation USA (TWFUSA) was established in 2007 as a non-profit corporation in the United States for charitable purposes and is registered in the State of Minnesota. TWFUSA contributions received during the year are distributed to The Winnipeg Foundation. These contributions will either be endowed or flowed to another Canadian community foundation for their endowment fund or to a registered charity in Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg Foundation USA will issue a letter of acknowledgment of the charitable gift, which is the source document when claiming a tax deduction for the contribution. Certain costs and restrictions apply. For more information please contact Winnipeg Foundation's Director of Strategic Philanthropy [Cathy Auld](#) or email twfusa@wpgfdn.org or call toll free 1-877-974-3631.

CAN VANCOUVER FOUNDATION AND WINNIPEG FOUNDATION ALSO FACILITATE GIFTS FROM CANADA TO THE U.S.?

No. At this time gifts can only be made from the U.S. to Canada.

I'VE HEARD THAT TIDES CANADA CAN FACILITATE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL GIVING. HOW DOES THAT WORK?

Tides Canada facilitates U.S. and international giving in two ways:

From Canada to U.S. or International

Tides Canada Global Projects Fund: Tides Canada Foundation and Charities Aid Foundation of Canada (CAF Canada) have partnered to help Tides Canada Foundation's donors in Canada give to charitable projects it advises globally. Through this partnership, Tides Canada Foundation works directly with donors to support and advise charitable projects around the world. Once projects are approved by CAF Canada, CAF Canada funds and oversees project implementation.

Currently a minimum of \$10,000 CAD and other restrictions, costs apply. Canadian charitable tax receipts are issued that can be applied against Canadian income.

From U.S. to Canada

U.S. to Canada Philanthropy Program: Tides Canada's U.S. to Canada Philanthropy Program allows donors to advise donations to Canadian charities by giving through a 501(c)(3) organization. Donors have the option to receive a U.S. tax receipt.

Certain minimums and costs apply depending on whether or not the donor requires a tax receipt. Please contact [Tides Canada](#) for further details on the above options.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER WAYS TO DO CROSS BORDER GIVING?

Two other organizations that offer cross border options are:

In Canada: [Place2Give](#)

In the U.S.: [Giveclear](#)

CROSS BORDER GIVING SEEMS TO BE COMPLICATED. WHY IS THAT?

Governments are foregoing revenue by issuing tax credits on charitable donations. Therefore, they want to know that the donations will primarily benefit citizens in their home country.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

1. [Canadian Registered Charities Carrying Out Activities Outside Canada](#), Last updated: 2010
2. [Charities in the International Context](#), Date modified: 16/07/2010
3. [Operating a registered charity](#) section of the [Charities and Giving](#) Web pages