

OBJECTIVES - Defined

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION OF CANADA

The following series of question were asked by officials with Revenue Canada in response to the "OBJECTIVES" developed for the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada and the answers developed and submitted in reply.

"(i) increasing public awareness of environmental health issues, concerns and hazards;"

Question: What is the charitable end to which this objective is directed?

Answer: Through the use of public education we hope to increase the public's awareness of environmental issues, concerns and hazards. The purpose is to further protect and enhance the health of the public. By making them aware of and understand better the hazards, dangers, concerns and issues relative to environmental health, we hope to help them identify and thus be able to avoid situations which could have an immediate or long-term detrimental affect on their health.

Question: What are the activities the organization would engage in to further this objective?

Answer: The funding of educational T.V. programs, documentaries, articles in the press and journals, school education programs, educational booklets and pamphlets plus public seminars all concerning environmental health.

Question: What are the nature of the issues, concerns and hazards referred to?

Answer: The following are examples of the issues, concerns and hazards referred to:

- * The hazard to health from asbestos materials used in public and private schools.
- * The safety of point of use water purification equipment used in the home.
- * The control and disposal of hazardous chemicals and materials in the community.
- * The storage and transportation of toxic chemicals in

- communities and cities across Canada.
- * The spread of environmentally related communicable diseases.
- * The benefits of preventive health care in Canada.
- * The importance of proper food handling procedures for voluntary caterers plus church and community groups preparing food for human consumption.
- * The hazard to health from elevated levels of Carbon Monoxide in indoor ice arenas.
- * Recognizing gastrointestinal illness caused by the addition of Sulfites to foods.
- * The safe use and disposal of household pesticides.
- * Recognizing respiratory initiated illness from elevated levels of Formaldehyde gas.

"(ii) encouraging and supporting persons in or entering into the field of environmental health through the issuance of bursaries and scholarships;"

Question: What are the criteria used to select recipients?

Answer: The following initial criteria have been proposed:

- 1) All persons seeking bursaries and scholarships would have to make application requesting consideration and providing documentation why they are eligible and should be considered.
- 2) All persons making application to be eligible, would have to be either working in the field of environmental health or attending a college or university in Canada, which offers a recognized program in environmental health.
- 3) Bursaries and scholarships would be distributed to recipients from across Canada.
- 4)a) Basic Scholarship requirements-Academic excellence in the general environmental health program or in a particular subject in that program.
b) Basic Bursary requirements-Demonstrated financial need plus satisfactory academic performance for persons enrolled in an environmental health program at a college or university or, demonstrated financial need plus satisfactory work performance, plus a proposal to further one's education in the field of environmental health for persons already working in the field of environmental health.

Question: Who selects the recipients?

Answer: The Board of Trustees would choose the successful recipients. The following method is proposed:

- 1) Students attending a recognized program in the field of environmental health at a college or university would make application through the official Bursar at the educational institution.
- 2) The administrators of the environmental health program at the college or university would review all applications and would forward all applications to the Board of Trustees with recommendations including reasons as to the successful candidates.
- 3) The Board of Trustees would review all applications plus pertinent information and decide on the recipients of the bursaries and scholarships.
- 4) Persons already working in the field of environmental health would submit their application with all pertinent data directly to the Board of Trustees.
- 5) Included in the data would be confirmation of satisfactory work performance plus confirmation of acceptance into a course applicable to the field of environmental health.
- 6) The Board of Trustees would review all applications plus pertinent information and decide on the recipients of the bursaries and scholarships.

Question: Is the award given directly to the student or to the relevant institution?

Answer: The award would be given directly to the successful applicant.

"(iii) promoting and/or supporting educational programs in the field of environmental health;"

Question: Would the organizations be "qualified donees" as described in the Income Tax Act?

Answer: Yes, all recipient agencies would be qualified donees as described in the Income Tax Act. Some examples of programs under consideration are baccalaureate level and graduate degree programs, diploma programs, certificate programs, credit courses and continuing education programs, all in the field of environmental health.

"(iv) initiating and supporting research in the field of environmental health;"

Question: Will the organization employ researchers, fund independent research or fund other organizations who employ researchers?

Answer: The organization will not employ its own researchers. It is intended that the organization would fund both independent researchers and other organizations who employ researchers. The research would have to be in the field of environmental health and be of benefit to the public.

Question: Will the organization disseminate the results of its research?

Answer: The organization will most certainly disseminate the results of its research in all cases.

Question: If so, to whom and how?

Answer: The research will be disseminated to government, the public, other researchers, universities, colleges and persons working in the field of environmental health. This will be done through distribution of the research itself directly to government, to libraries, through professional journals and to the public via the media such as the press and T.V.

Question: What is the nature of the research contemplated?

Answer: The following list provides examples of the nature of research which is contemplated.

- * How Legionnaire's Disease is spread in hospitals as well as public buildings and how can it be prevented and eliminated.
- * Controlling the spread of Salmonella in turtles sold to the public for children's pets.
- * Determining the dangers of high levels of Nitrate in drinking water, especially for pregnant women and small children.
- * Determining the safety and effectiveness of chemicals used in the sanitizing of food equipment and utensils.
- * Determining the hazard to public health from the use of Asbestos fibers in Asbestos Cement pipes used in public water systems.

- * The safety of recycling waste products.
- * The hazard to children's health from Carbon Monoxide levels in indoor public ice arenas across Canada.
- * Methods of properly disposing of human sewage into the natural soil without creating a health hazard or nuisance to the users or public.
- * The hazard to the public from elevated levels of chemical contaminants in the air.
- * The control of communicable diseases arising from the increased use of swirl pools and hot tubs.
- * The control and eradication of parasites in waters used for public bathing, laundry, purposes and drinking in third world countries.
- * The effective control of disease causing Giardia Lamblia in public water supplies in Canada.
- * The detection and control of viruses in public drinking water supplies.
- * The health affects of Trihalomethanes in public drinking water supplies.
- * Control of contaminants entering the groundwater used for public and private drinking water supplies.
- * Proper methods for disposal of solid wastes and toxic chemicals in Canada.
- * Safe methods for incinerating household wastes.

"(v) supporting the development and operation of national and international projects in the field of environmental health."

Question: What type of charitable activities are to be carried on in furtherance of this objective?

Answer: The following types of charitable activities are envisaged by the organization:

- A) Internationally
 Working on environmental health projects in third world countries, with well respected agencies such as C.I.D.A., U.N.I.C.E.F., W.H.O., OXFAM, C.U.S.O., concerning problems such as:
- * Provision of safe drinking water to small communities with or without electricity.
 - * Education of the native population on health issues such as personal hygiene, safe use of pesticides and herbicides.
 - * Training of local citizens to be public and environmental health workers in their own community.

- * Controlling the spread of death and disease caused by rodents and insects such as flies and mosquitos.
- * Providing safe disposal of household sewage and garbage in third world countries.
- * Controlling and eradicating parasites which cause illness, blindness and death from waters used for public bathing, recreation and laundry purposes.

B) Nationally

Working on environmental health projects with government agencies, other charities and foundations plus community organizations concerning problems such as:

- * Controlling Carbon Monoxide in indoor ice arenas across Canada to prevent illness for the users, particularly children.
- * Controlling the level of Formaldehyde gas in prefabricated portable schools, public halls, libraries and homes where it is adversely affecting the health of the users and/or residents.
- * Preventing poisonings through the safe use of pesticides in agricultural operations, where many of the workers are found not to be fluent in English and/or are "new Canadians" and are not familiar with the safe handling of such products.
- * Providing safe water supplies to the public in small communities across Canada, primarily serving Native Indians, Eskimos and the Inuit. In part this will be through;
 - a) the installation of filtration equipment to remove the disease causing parasite, Giardia Lamblia,
 - b) the installation of disinfection facilities to remove disease causing bacteria.
 - c) the installation of treatment facilities to remove excessive levels of chemicals which are detrimental to human health, such as Nitrate, Fluoride, Arsenic, Lead and Sulphate.

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