

Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River Districts

Ethical Fund Raising and Financial Accountability Code

INTRODUCTION

The Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River Districts is a registered charity in the Province of Ontario (registration # 88961 4970 RR0001) which serves the residents of the Kenora/Rainy River Districts and whose Mission is:

“To improve the quality of life of individuals who are affected or who may become affected by Alzheimer disease or a related dementia.”

The Board of Directors of the Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River Districts adopted the following *Ethical Fund Raising and Financial Accountability Code* in 2003 to assure its Donors and prospective Donors (including sponsors) of its integrity and accountability with regard to all solicitations and use of funds. The Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River Districts is committed to fund raising practices that respect Donors’ rights to truthful information, privacy, and appropriate recognition. The Society also is dedicated to managing responsibly the funds that Donors entrust to it, and to report its financial affairs accurately and completely.

The *Ethical Fund Raising and Financial Accountability Code* consists of three parts:

- 1. Donors’ Bill of Rights;**
- 2. Fund Raising Practices;**
- 3. Financial Accountability.**

It is important to note that there are some sources of revenues for which official receipts for tax purposes are not issued (charitable gaming, product sales, and some special events organized to benefit the Society). These activities may involve additional ethical considerations that are not specifically addressed in this Code.

Donors or prospective Donors who have questions or concerns about the Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River Districts’ fund raising activities or financial reporting should contact the Society at (807) 468-1516. Any inquiries will be dealt with fairly. The Charities Division of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency also provides information and receives complaints about registered charities at (800) 267-2384.

Each member of the Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River Districts’ Board of Directors has received a copy of this Code and a copy will be provided to each person who is subsequently appointed to the Board.

A. DONORS RIGHTS

1. A donor (individual, corporation, and foundation) is entitled to receive an official receipt for income tax purposes for the amount of the donation. Donors of non-monetary eligible gifts (or gifts in-kind) are entitled to receive an official receipt that reflects the fair market value of the gift. (Note: “Eligible gifts” are defined in Revenue Canada Interpretation Bulletin IT-110R2 or its successor. Some common gifts, such as donations of volunteer time, services, food, inventory from a business, etc, are not eligible to receive an official tax receipt). The charity’s governing board may establish a minimum amount for the automatic issuance of receipts, in which case smaller donations will be receipted only upon request.
2. All fundraising solicitation by or on behalf of the charity will disclose the charity’s name and the purpose for which funds are requested. Printed solicitations (however transmitted) will also include its address or other contact information.
3. Donors and prospective donors are entitled to the following, promptly upon our request:
 - The charity’s most recent annual report and financial statements as approved by the governing board;
 - The charity’s registration number (BN) as assigned by Revenue Canada;
 - Any information contained in the public portion of the charity’s most recent Charity Information Return (form T3010) as submitted to Revenue Canada;
 - A list of the names of the members of the charity’s governing board; and a copy of this Ethical Fundraising & Financial Accountability Code.
4. Donors and prospective donors are entitled to know, upon request, whether an individual soliciting funds on behalf of the charity is a volunteer, an employee, or a hired solicitor.
5. Donors will be encouraged to seek independent advise if the charity has any reason to believe that a proposed gift might significantly affect the donor’s financial position, taxable income or relationship with other family members.
6. Donor’s requests to remain anonymous will be respected. The privacy of donors will be respected. Any donor records that are maintained by the charity will be kept confidential to the greatest extent possible. Donors have the right to see their own donor record, and to challenge its accuracy.
7. If the charity exchanges, rents, or otherwise shares its fundraising list with other organizations, a donor’s request to be excluded from the list will be honoured.
8. Donors and prospective donors will be treated with respect. Every effort will be made to honour their requests to:
 - Limit the frequency of solicitations;
 - Not be solicited by telephone or other technology;
 - Receive printed material concerning the charity.

9. The charity will respond promptly to a complaint by a donor or prospective donor about any matter that is addressed in the Ethical Fundraising & Financial Accountability Code. A designated staff member or volunteer will attempt to satisfy the complainant's concerns in the first instance. A complainant who remains dissatisfied will be informed that he/she may appeal in writing to the charity's governing board or its designate, and will be advised in writing of the disposition of the appeal. A complainant who is still dissatisfied will be informed that he/she may notify the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy in writing.

B. FUNDRAISING PRACTICES

1. Fundraising solicitations on behalf of the charity will:
 - Be truthful;
 - Accurately describe the charity's activities and the intended use of donated funds; and
 - Respect the dignity and privacy of those who benefit from the charity's activities.
2. Volunteers, employees and hired solicitors who solicit or receive funds on behalf of the charity shall:
 - Adhere to the provisions of the Ethical Fundraising & Financial Accountability Code;
 - Act with fairness, integrity, and in accordance with all applicable laws;
 - Adhere to the provisions of applicable professional code of ethics, standards of practice, etc;
 - Cease solicitation of a prospective donor who identifies the solicitation as harassment or undue pressure;
 - Disclose immediately to the charity any actual or apparent conflict of interest; and
 - Not accept donations for purposes that are inconsistent with the charity's objects or missions
3. Paid fundraiser, whether staff or consultants, will be compensated by a salary, retainer or fee, and will not be paid finders' fees, commissions' value of funds raised. Compensation policies for fundraisers, including performance-based compensation practices (such as salary increases or bonuses) will be consistent with the charity's policies and practices that apply to non-fundraising personnel.
4. The charity will not sell its donor list. If applicable, any rental, exchange or other sharing of the charity's donor list will exclude the names of donors who have so requested (as provided in section A7, above). If a list of the charity's donors is exchanged, rented or otherwise shared with another organization, such sharing will be for a specified period of time and a specified purpose.
5. The charity's governing board will be informed at least annually of the number, type and disposition of complaints received from donors or prospective donors about matters that are addressed in this Ethical Fundraising & Accountability Code.

C. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

1. The charity's financial affairs will be conducted in a responsible manner, consistent with the ethical obligations of stewardship and the legal requirements of provincial and federal regulators.
2. All donations will be used to support the charity's objects, as registered with Revenue Canada.
3. All restricted or designated donations will be used for the purposes for which they are given. If necessary due to program or organization changes, alternative uses will be discussed where possible with the donor's legal designate. If the donor is deceased or legally incompetent and the charity is unable to contact a legal designate, the donation will be used in a manner that is as consistent as possible with the donor's original intent.
4. Annual Financial reports will:
 - Be factual and accurate in all material respects;
 - Disclose:
 - The total amount of fundraising revenues (receipted and non-receipted);
 - The total amount of fundraising expenses (including salaries and overhead costs);
 - The total amount of donations that are receipted for income tax purposes (excluding bequests, endowed donations that cannot be expended for at least 10 years, and gifts from other charities);
 - The total amount of expenditures on charitable activities (including gifts to other charities).
 - Identify government grants and contributions separately from other donations; and
 - Be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and standards established by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, in all material respects.
5. No more will be spent on administration and fundraising than is required to ensure effective management and resource development. In any event, the charity will meet or exceed Revenue Canada's requirement for expenditures on charitable activities. (In general, section 149.1 of the Income Tax Act requires all charities to spend at least 80 percent of their receipted donations (excluding bequests, endowed other charities) on charitable activities; in addition, charitable foundations are required every to expend 4.5 percent of the value of their assets in support of charitable programs).
6. The cost-effectiveness of the charity's fundraising program will be reviewed regularly by the governing board.