

What does it mean to share?

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Sharing is the process of giving or donating something to another individual/group/cause without the obligation to pay it back.

Sharing can involve anything of value, but when we discuss sharing through the donation of money, we often think of **charity and philanthropy**.

Have we heard these terms before?

Philanthropy is an idea or event or action that is done to better humanity. It usually involves some sacrifice.

Philanthropy comes from the Greek term meaning "love of mankind."

Examples:

donating money to a charity

volunteering at a local shelter

raising money to donate to a cause

Charity is an organization which raises money to help people of a certain cause. It is the hands-on response to helping meet immediate needs like food, shelter, medical care, etc.

There are many Canadians who are considered Philanthropists. Here are 3 examples you may be familiar with:

Bryan Adams

-singer, guitarest, composer, record producer, photographer, philanthropist, and activity from Kingston, Ontario.

-Bryan Adams Foundation (funded by majority of his own funds) aims to advance education and learning opportunities for children around the world.

Celine Dion:

-singer from Quebec.

-has actively supported many charities

-promotes the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and is their nation celebrity

-has donated funds and raised awareness for victims of natural disasters

Tom Jackson

-actor and singer from One Arrow Reserve, Saskatchewan

-well known for his annual series of Christmas concerts, travelling across Canada to raise money for the Canadian Association of Food Banks.

-after a friend committed suicide in 1996, he started the Dreamcatcher Tour to promote positive messages and stress, mental health, suicide prevention, and coping.

Choose one philanthropist (that we have not discussed) from any part of the world.

Write your philanthropist's name on the board when you have chosen, to prevent a classmate from choosing the same.

Research the following to informally present:

1. Name, Birthplace, Current Location
2. Brief history of their career path/what they are known for.
3. Past and present acts of philanthropy
4. Any motivation for their philanthropy if you can find it (for example, some may support a certain charity because they lost someone to that illness.)

This should all be put into your own words so citing sources is not necessary. You will display your findings on a one page poster (handmade or computer-made) including a picture of the philanthropist.

We've now researched some of the "who" about giving, and a little bit of the "**why**".

There are many personal and ethical reasons why a person may choose to donate to or support a charitable cause.

As in some examples we researched, people may be particularly passionate about a certain cause due to our career interests, family members, or experiences. For example, Celine Dion lost a niece to cystic fibrosis and that motivated her to support this cause. Others may have travelled somewhere and saw with their own eyes an unfortunate situation they are passionate about fixing.

Many people feel a sense of duty to give back to society and use their own good fortune to help others. It may also provide the feeling of doing the right thing and therefore follow someone's moral code.

Another reason why we may donate to charities is that it is tied to our religious beliefs. In some belief systems, donating to those in need is practiced. This is called Zakat in the Muslim culture and is a certain percentage of earnings that must be donated to those who are poor and in need. (It is usually around 2.5%)

Just as there are personal reasons for donating, there are also financial reasons to donate.

When we complete our income tax and benefit return, we can use our official donation tax receipts (which we will discuss later) to claim federal and provincial tax credits. We can claim up to 29% of the amount donated at the federal level and, depending on the province, about 24% at the provincial level. This means we do not have to pay taxes on this amount. We can also carry these amounts forward and claim them any year within the next five years. (This means we can let them accumulate for 5 years before the % is taken off our taxable income)

Now that we've looked at the who and the why, we will look at the **how**.

How do we give?

Although we generally think of monetary donations, volunteers can also donate their **time and expertise**. Often, events are running on limited staff and budget, so they are appreciative of extra help, organization, and special skills such as photography, promoting on social media, cleaning, etc. Often, we can also donate **physical items**. For example, crayons and paper can be donated to schools or a daycare, food and other supplies could be donated to homeless shelters.

When we give monetary donations we can do this through any payment method, or through regular payroll deductions if you have the option through your employer.

Crowdfunding is becoming a popular way to money. This means small amounts are collected from many people (funded by a crowd) to reach a goal. Often, this money is advertised through social media and collected online.

GoFundMe is a common crowdfunding platform.

Now that we've looked at the who and the why, and the how, we will look at the **where**.

Where does our donation go?

Registered Charities vs. Non-profit Organizations (NPOs)

A **registered charity** is a charitable organization that is created and resides in Canada. All their resources must be used for charitable activities and have a goal. Because these are registered with the CRA (Canada Revenue Agency) they can issue official donation receipts for income tax purposes. This means if you donate to a registered charity, you can receive a receipt for your donation to use for a tax exemption.

A **non-profit organization (NPO)** is a club, society, or association that does not have the purpose of making profit. They are not registered and therefore cannot issue official receipts for income tax purposes.

Both registered charities and NPOs are exempt from paying income tax, however NPOs may have to pay tax on property income or on capital gains.

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