Charitable Gifting Options



What is a Donor Advised Fund?

First and foremost it is a simple, efficient and cost effective way of making charitable gifts to your favoured causes through Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) qualified organizations.

Gifts of Cash

Gifts of cash are the most common form of giving. In many cases, gifts of cash can be small amounts driven by a direct response local community fundraising campaign, or broader calls for donations needed to provide relief in the case of an international humanitarian disaster.





Gifts-in-Kind

Gifts in kind are donations made in the form of an asset or property that has real value and is not a gift of cash. The most common gifts-in-kind tend to be a gift of publicly traded financial securities such as stock or a gift of real estate. However, many other assets have real value and can be donated such as precious gems and metals, works of art, antique or other automobiles, yachts, equity memberships with resale provisions and shares in privately held companies.

Charitable Bequests Under A Will

With long-term concerns of limited personal cashflow for oneself and for future generations, many donors have apprehension about making charitable donations to their favoured causes during their lifetime. As such, many donors feel more comfortable leaving charitable gifts or bequests under their Wills, allowing them time to assess their personal needs and future potential demands on their estate (such as education, healthcare or special needs).



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A Gift of Life Insurance

There are a number of ways of gifting life insurance – each with its own advantages. Choose what is right for your specific financial situation and charitable interests. Life insurance provides for loved ones upon death. The same principle can be used to benefit your favoured charitable causes. A gift of life insurance will enable you to leave a significant gift upon your death – often larger than what might be possible during your lifetime.





Gifting A Registered Account

As with many types of charitable gifting donors often have concerns about future cash requirements during their lifetime and that of their spouse. Spouses can name one another as beneficiaries of their registered accounts (RRSPs, RIFFs & TFSAs) on a tax deferred basis. However the estates of surviving spouses and singles must pay taxes on all remaining amounts in their registered account upon passing. One option is to consider gifting your registered account to charity.

Residual Interest Gifts

Many donors possess valuable assets that they wish to leave to charity but are concerned about future cash needs or having ongoing access to gifted assets during their lifetime. A Residual Interest Gift offers access to potential income or access to a favourite property or other valued asset for life, while maximizing tax benefits and leaving the remainder of the donated asset value in support of your favorite cause - a split interest gifting vehicle.





A Charitable Gift Annuity

Often donors want to make a gift to a favoured cause but worry about future cash requirements. Through a combination of an annuity and a Donor Advised Fund, donors can be guaranteed a steady income stream while also maximizing tax benefits and supporting their favourite charitable causes during their lifetime. In essence, Charitable Gift Annuities can be considered part investment and part charitable gift.

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Charitable Endowment Donor Advised Funds

Donors often have specific ongoing programs or projects within a given charitable organization or foundation that they wish to support over time. In some cases, the donor may even want to foster a new program targeted at a unique aspect of a charity's mandate that has special meaning to the donor. In both instances, donors will have very specific requirements on the use of funds and will require that the capital portion of the gift be left intact to maximize the flow of income over time.

Wealth Replacement Insurance

Often donors want to leave meaningful gifts to their favourites causes but are concerned about diminishing their financial legacy to their heirs. Purchasing a wealth replacement insurance policy and making the donors heirs the beneficiaries may allow donors to fulfill their chartable giving objectives during their lifetime without diminishing their family legacy.

