



Mike Christie
Executive Director

“Be Careful Before You Give”

In Canada there are over 81,000 charities registered with the Canada Revenue Agency and of those more 1500 are registered in the Province of Alberta. The Southeastern Alberta Regional Directory created and managed by the Volunteer and Community Information Centre www.volunteerinthehat.ca lists over six hundred organizations many of which are charities.

With so many charities and organizations looking for gifts and/or sponsorship, the competition for donations can be fierce. As the season for thinking of others and giving generously care needs to be to ensure that your donation dollars are being used as you expect. In Alberta all charities who intend to solicit money must be licensed by the Province. The license process requires charities to conduct their fundraising activities under certain guidelines.

<http://governmentservices.gov.ab.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=section:charities>

Imagine Canada is a National Organization that represents the philanthropic and voluntary sectors at the national level. They have established an *Ethic Fundraising and Financial Accountability Code* which provides strict guidelines including: Donor's Rights, Fundraising Practices and Financial Accountability.

www.imaginecanada.ca

The Better Business Bureau conducts an annual Charity Review Program. This program sets 14 standards in areas such as: Public Accountability, Use of Funds, Solicitation Materials, Fundraising Practices and Governance.

www.betterbusinessbureau.ca/charity_review/index.asp

The Community Foundation is proud to have formally adopted the *Ethic Fundraising and Financial Accountability Code* as policy for our fund development activities. In addition the Foundation received accreditation under the Charity Review Program from the Better Business Bureau and of course the Foundation is licensed by the Province to undertake charitable fundraising activities.

The Foundation is the **only non-government grantmaker that supports all sectors of the community**. Because we work with a wide range of community groups, we have a bird's eye view of local challenges. We are also very involved in grass roots community leadership and when combined with our grant making this makes Foundation an extremely useful resource and with an ability to provide advice on all charities in Southeastern Alberta.

So be careful before you make your donation. If you have any doubts ask some difficult questions or call the Community Foundation for advice. Mike Christie (Executive Director) and Melissa Frew Wannamaker (Executive Assistant) can be reached at 527 9038.