



OTTAWA ON K1A 0L8

INDO-CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP
SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

0433201-09

This letter is to advise you that we are replacing the existing charities registration number with the Business Number (BN). This also applies to registered Canadian amateur athletic associations (RCAAs) and registered National arts service organizations (RNASOs).

BN is a new numbering system the Government of Canada has introduced as a more efficient way to identify businesses and organizations and the various program accounts they have. One number replaces many of the numbers they need to deal with the federal government. Revenue Canada has already introduced the BN in its four major business programs: corporate income tax, import/export, payroll deductions and the goods and services tax (GST). The BN system will now include registered charities, RCAAs, and RNASOs.

The BN consists of two parts, the registration number and the account identifier. The entire number has 15 digits:

Nine digits to identify the organization; and

Two letters and four digits to identify each account the organization may have.

For example, the BN for a registered charity could look like this:

Registration Number	Account Identifier
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	R R 0 0 0 2

Your registration number identifies your charity. The number stays the same no matter how many or what types of program accounts you have. The 2 letters identify the type of program account – in this case – "RR" for registered charities/RCAAs/RNASOs. The last 4 digits identify the account number.

Revenue Canada will respect the privacy and confidentiality legislation when using information available through the BN system. As is currently the case, the public will only be able to access certain information provided on the registered charity information return.

By April 1, 1997, all registered charities will have a Business Number. To ease the changeover, there is a transition period for registered charity/RCAA/RNASO accounts, ending September 30, 1998 (note: this transition period does not apply to the other four Revenue Canada accounts. The deadline to convert to BN for those programs is January 1, 1997). This period will give you time to notify donors of the new numbers and to use up tax receipts and other documents with the old charitable registration

numbers. The change to the BN will not affect any of the rules or procedures that charities currently follow.

We need to know which program accounts (if any) your organization has with Revenue Canada. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to us in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. We will write to you to confirm your Business Number. If you have any questions about the conversion of the Charity registration number, please contact the Charities Division at 1-800-267-2384 (toll free).

Pierre Gravelle, Q.C.
Deputy Minister of National Revenue

Enclosures

Si vous désirez que nous communiquions avec vous en français, veuillez composer le 1-800-267-2384 (ligne sans frais).