

SPECIAL EVENTS and TAX RECEIPTS - EXAMPLES

For many types of Special Events, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) does not allow tax receipts to be issued. The CRA's definition of what constitutes a "gift" or charitable donation explains why funds raised from Special Events often do not qualify for a tax receipt, for example:
 1) the donor receives a benefit that is considered significant 2) the fair market value of the donation can't be readily ascertained or proven
 3) the gift is not given voluntarily 4) the owner of the donation is unclear or 5) the donation/gift is not considered to be property. See the CRA website for more information: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/chrts/menu-eng.html>

We realize many individuals and organizations put a great deal of time and effort into raising funds through Special Events, and we are very grateful for this. We try hard to issue tax receipts when requested. However, if UWACR feels that either CRA or UWACR requirements have not been met, a tax receipt will not be issued. Because UWACR requires specific documentation to issue Special Event tax receipts, we have developed forms for the most common types of situations. These forms can be obtained from your Loaned Representative, Campaign Manager or from our website. Some examples of Special Events and tax receipting details are listed below.

Event or Donation Type	Examples	Tax receiptable? (form)	Reason/explanation
Participation or entrance fee	race, walk, stair climb	not receiptable	The participant receives benefits from participating in or winning the event.
	balloon darts (win the prize in the balloon)		
	guess the # of jelly beans		
Service donations	time	not receiptable	Do not meet legal definition of what constitutes a "gift", according to CRA
	vacation rentals/time shares		
	musical performance		
	accounting		
Home made gifts	baking	not receiptable	Can't clearly ascertain fair market value
	knitted item		
	bird house		
Used items	clothing	not receiptable	Can't clearly ascertain fair market value
	books		
	furniture		
	appliances		
Loose change	change jar	not receiptable	The owner of the donation can't be determined or the donation is not given voluntarily.
	"fines" for being late for a meeting or using blackberry in a meeting, etc		
Raffle tickets (purchaser)	50/50	not receiptable	The purchaser has an expectation of receiving a benefit, i.e. winning the prize
	handmade quilt		
	car		
Raffle tickets - seller or corporation	any kind of raffle	not receiptable	The funds being donated (proceeds from raffle ticket sales) do not belong to the seller or the hosting corporation.
Raffle for a tax receipt	entire amount raised from sale of raffle tickets is "donated" to UW in the name of the winner	not receiptable	Not permitted under federal or provincial law. Absolutely not eligible for a tax receipt for both reasons listed above (regarding raffle tickets).
Auction item or raffle prize - Gift certificate issued by vendor	weekend in Banff	not receiptable	Valuation, ownership and "property" issues. (Note - if a third party buys a gift certificate and donates it, the third party can be given a tax receipt)
	hockey tickets		
	spa treatment		
Sponsoring a participant	race	receiptable	Tax receipt is issued to sponsor, not participant
	walk		
	stair climb		
	poker tournament		

Event or Donation Type	Examples	Tax receiptable? (form)	Reason/explanation
"Dares"	head shaving	receiptable	Tax Receipts will be issued to contributor/donor, Receipts will not be issued to the person being shaved, dunked, thrown at
	dunk tank		
	pie throwing		
Casual/crazy dress	jeans day/week	receiptable	The "benefit" received is considered nominal
	"I'm dressed this way for UnitedWay"		
	ugliest tie contest		
Winner of a 50/50 or cash in lieu of prize raffle	winner of 50% of the ticket sales	receiptable	Prize winner must voluntarily donate their winnings to UWACR
	take cash in lieu of car		
Auction item or raffle prize - Donated gifts (new)	ipod	receiptable	The donor must provide proof of fair market value, i.e detailed invoice or cash register receipt showing amount paid
	concert tickets		
	framed artwork (commercially produced)		
	television		
	chocolate lover's gift basket		
Auction item or raffle prize - Donated merchandise from inventory	bicycle from bike shop	* may be receiptable	Note: most often, business owner writes off the cost as a business expense (e.g. marketing or advertising)
	flower arrangement from flower shop		* if tax receipt is requested (instead of expensing), UWACR requires business to provide an invoice marked "gift donation" for amount equivalent to gift's fair market value, and include that amount in business income
	sandwiches from a caterer		* vendor must contact tax accountant or CRA for more information
Auction item or raffle prize - Donated previously owned items of high value	artwork	* may be receiptable *needs pre-approval	complex, needs pre-approval, may depend on :
	jewelry		* length of time owned
	antique furniture		* ability to determine fair market value
	first edition books		* availability of qualified, independent appraiser
	coin collection		* cost of appraisal
Fundraising event with significant benefits for participant	golf tournament	* a portion may be receiptable * needs pre-approval	Complex, significant bookkeeping requirements, pre-approval may be required
	dinner & dance		* cost &/or fair market value of all nominal benefits (e.g. package of tees) and significant benefits (e.g. green fees, dinner, door prizes, etc) must be calculated to determine receiptable amount.
	fashion show		

* Please contact UWACR for more information.