

# A taxing situation



**FOCUS ON EDUCATION**  
COURSES & CLASSES FOR ALL AGES & INTERESTS

**LOOK FOR OUR UPCOMING FOCUS ON EDUCATION "SPRING EDITION" IN THE EDMONTON EXAMINER ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**Deadline for booking is: February 20th**

**"GET WITH A PROGRAM"**  
For more information on any of these supplements contact The Edmonton Examiner at 780-453-9001

**EDMONTON Examiner**



**Give Someone a Lift!**

Support Donate-a-Ride, a fundraiser helping provide city transit tickets to those in need.

For more information visit [www.donatearide.ab.ca](http://www.donatearide.ab.ca)

For nonprofit and charitable organizations struggling to make sense of charity law, help is available.

Charity Central, a project of the Legal Resource Centre of Alberta and funded by the Canada Revenue Agency, is designed to help registered charities understand their responsibilities under the Income Tax Act.

Registered charities, unlike non-registered charities, are allowed to issue official tax receipts to their donors.

"As a registered charity, you don't have to pay income tax and you are allowed to issue receipts to donors," explains Kimberly Ireton, communications assistant for Charity Central.



"Receipts are great for people who offer large amounts of money if they can claim that

donation for themselves. Some people may not want to donate at a certain charity if they're not able to get a receipt. They may donate at another charity that will." The drawback for registered charities is navigating the rules and regulations set forth by the Income Tax Act.

"There are lots of rules that registered charities need to abide by. It's not always easy to understand," Ireton remarks.

It becomes even more difficult for charities to comply when they are run by volunteers, have limited staff or experience a high turnover.

"In Alberta, about 58 per cent of nonprofit and charitable organizations are volunteer-run."

It's tough enough to just keep up with the day-to-day duties.

"Add into that complex legal and financial issues and things become even tougher," says Janice Bell, director of Volunteer Edmonton. "Without a dedicated person, understanding a complex topic like charity law can be very difficult."

Understanding how to issue donor receipts, maintain proper books and records, how to file returns and guidelines for charitable activities like fundraising are just a few of the topics covered by charity law.

With the launch of Charity Central's toll-free helpline for Albertans in September 2008, Ireton says the response has been positive.

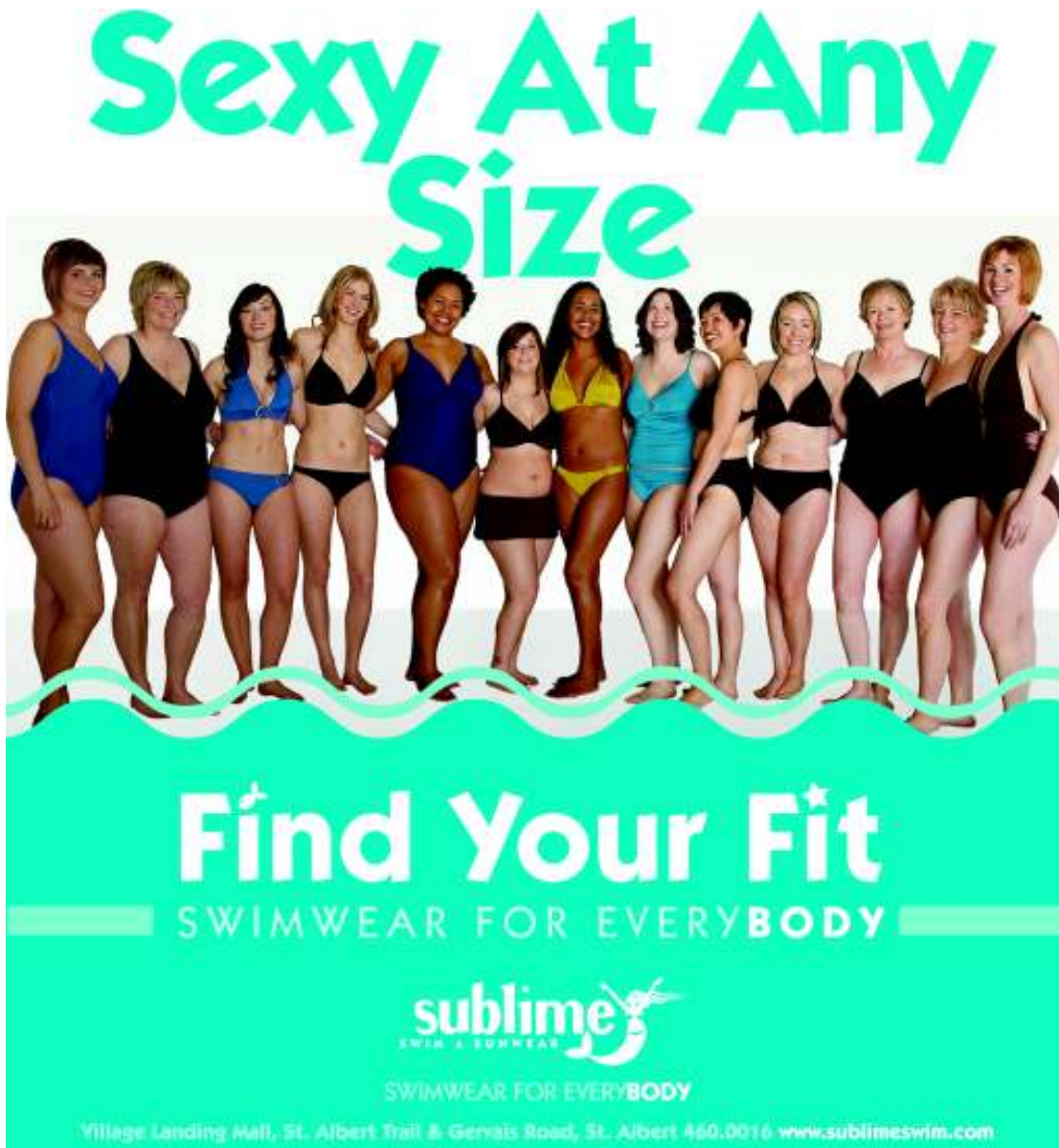
"We've had a great response – an average of two to three calls a week. Charities are telling us how thankful they are and how happy they are to have the helpline," she says.

Most of the questions received on the helpline revolve around receipting procedures and guidelines around charitable fundraising.

With the project coming to a close in March 2010, the hope is that registered charities will gain a better understanding of how to comply with the regulations set forth by Canada Revenue Agency.

The project will result in print and electronic learning resources designed to continue supporting charitable organizations – including their website which will remain as a resource after the project ends.

Look to this space to see the work that the city's volunteers and nonprofit organizations are carrying out. For more information, contact Evelyn Pham, communications co-ordinator, at [epham@volunteeredmonton.com](mailto:epham@volunteeredmonton.com), call 732-6655 or check out our website at [www.volunteeredmonton.com](http://www.volunteeredmonton.com).



# Sexy At Any Size

## Find Your Fit

SWIMWEAR FOR EVERYBODY

**sublime**  
SWIM & SUMMER

SWIMWEAR FOR EVERYBODY

Village Landing Mall, St. Albert Trail & Gervais Road, St. Albert 460.0016 [www.sublimeswim.com](http://www.sublimeswim.com)