

CHARITY LAW

Charity Law Bulletin, information-packed web site only the latest contributions from Terry Carter

SOME FOLK, pursuant to philanthropic impulses, donate money to charity or some other element in the community that needs strengthening. Some are better able to volunteer their time. At least as laudable is the person who shares a particularly useful expertise with those whose cause it can enhance. Such a person (although he might be embarrassed at the description) is **Terry Carter**, an Orangeville, Ontario-based lawyer who specializes in laws affecting charities and religious organizations. Carter, who has recently set out his independent shingle as **Carter & Associates**, affiliated and legal counsel to **Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP** after several years in another legal partnership, distributes his legalese largesse in a variety of ways.

A long-time contributor to *Canadian FundRaiser*, his most recent new initiative is the publication on the web of his *Charity Law Bulletin*, which will come out about monthly to update charities on changes in laws or other matters that affect their activities. It will probably soon be available to subscribers by e-mail. The most recent issue, for example, covers Ontario's release of regulations under the Charities Accounting Act, completing amendments passed almost three years ago. The bulletin puts government bureaucratese into English, explaining (among other points) that although charities can indemnify directors, they cannot remunerate them (CF, March 14, 2001). About three times a year, Carter gathers the brief updates contained in *Charity Law Bulletin* in a larger publication, *Charity and the Law Update*, which is distributed by the **Canadian Council for Philanthropy** as well as being made available on the web.

Spreading the word ...

Publication of the new bulletin came in the year in which Carter was the founding chair of the **Charity & Not-For-Profit Law Section** of the **Canadian Bar Association – Ontario**. It also coincided with the natural upheaval involved in establishing a new practice, a new web site, and all the other paraphernalia entailed.

In addition to making a vast amount of legal information and advice available free to all kinds of charities, Carter runs an annual one-day *Church and the Law* seminar, where for the princely sum of \$10, representatives of religious institutions can tap into the expertise of several speakers knowledgeable about the challenges they face. For example, next November 6, in addition to Carter they will hear from:

- **Carl Juneau**, director, Policy and Communications Division, Charities Directorate, **Canada Customs and Revenue Agency**;
- **Ken Goodman**, director of charitable property, the **Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee of Ontario**;
- **Bryan Campbell**, legal counsel for the **Salvation Army of Canada**;
- **Janet Epp Buckingham**, legal counsel for the **Evangelical Fellowship of Canada**;
- **Elena Hoffstein**, **Fasken Martineau DuMoulin**;
- **Mervyn F. White**, **Carter & Associates**; and
- **Jacqueline Connor**, **Carter & Associates**.

Integrating faith and a practice ...

Why does this lawyer cast so much bread upon the charitable community's water? In most contexts, "free legal advice" is considered to be an oxymoron, but here it is, all as close as your nearest Internet server. In Carter's view, it's one way of "integrating faith with a practice." He claims to have no talent for fundraising, but says "I can write, and provide people with information that makes their jobs easier." Also, if he charged for his writings, he feels, he'd be more "under the gun" to meet specific deadlines or provide specific material. As it is, he can "have fun" writing what he wants when he wants.

And, as we all know, bread upon the waters does eventually come back. Indisputably, **Carter and Associates** gets the call when charities which have benefited from its free services need something more individual and specific — and, hopefully, fee-generating.

In addition to the *Charity Law Bulletin*, *Charity and the Law Update*, and *Church and the Law Update*, Carter's web site offers charities a veritable library of reference works, articles and seminar materials on all kinds of subjects, some lengthy and some shorter. For example, produced recently are a revision of the major work *Looking a Gift Horse in the Mouth: Avoiding Liability in Charitable Fundraising and Utilizing Ten-Year Gifts in Charitable Fundraising*. Just a few of the articles: *Copyright Law in Canada*, *Ethical Fundraising and Financial Accountability Code*, *Donor-Restricted Charitable Gifts*.

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