

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING UNBIASED

At **FORED BC**, among the frequently asked questions we receive, there are two that are most often repeated. The first is:

1. Does your organization represent a particular viewpoint?
2. Why are you involved in teacher training?

The answers to both of those questions are found in the law. **FORED BC** is a registered charity under federal law classified as having the purpose of “the advancement of education.” The law is very specific when it comes to what kind of associations are allowed to have a tax write-off for their members. For organizations to be considered to be advancing education, the courts have stated the following:

It is not good enough for an association to mail unsolicited materials to the school system.

Their activities must “involve a full and fair presentation of the facts so people can draw their own conclusions. If an organization intends to influence the opinions or actions of the public toward one side of a controversial issue, it is not advancing education in the charitable sense. For this reason, an advocacy group would not qualify as a charity.”

Out of respect for its legal obligations, **FORED BC** leaves to the public relations departments and pressure groups the task of pushing the public towards one viewpoint or the other. As an organization mandated to assist in the

advancement of education, we endeavour to bring all perspectives into discussion so long as it is done in a manner that truly supports the curriculum and assists teachers.

The law is equally clear on the relationship between training and the advancement of education. In order to have charitable status, it is not good enough for an

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— Revenue Canada

association to mail unsolicited materials to the school system. According to the law, “Only providing information is not accepted by the courts as educational; training or instruction also have to be offered.”

FORED BC meets this training requirement in two ways. First, we offer a series of workshops to teachers on an annual basis and provide a range of speakers that can offer differing perspectives. Second, **FORED BC** on a daily basis provides learning resources to teachers in the K-12 system and corresponds with them directly to help them facilitate the use of these resources in the classroom.

When an association enjoys a charitable tax status, indirectly it means it is being supported by all taxpayers. The duty, therefore, to play by the rules is one which the law and **FORED BC** take seriously.



— Jennifer Kroepf, Il

— Shadow of the Salmon

Showing all the environmental cards.