

# THE <sup>Big</sup> SCOOP

What's happening at United Community Services Co-op

#3 -- December 10, 2004

Best wishes for **Happy Holidays** from all of us at the Co-op!! And for peace in the New Year. If there is something you think Co-op members should know about, please contact us at [info@ucscoop.com](mailto:info@ucscoop.com). (Readers like you have suggested two of the articles appearing below.)

## → NEW REQUIREMENTS: Charities Regulatory Reform

Soon all charities will be required to include a Canada Revenue Agency website on their charitable receipts (Which website is still to be clarified, though timing could be as early as March/05)

This is part of the Federal **Charities Regulatory Reform Initiative's** efforts to increase transparency and accountability in the charitable sector. (We predict a blip in rubberstamp sales.)

And there's another new requirement with greater implications:

- Effective immediately for charities registered after March 23, 2004 and for all charities by 2008, "*All transfers between registered charities other than specified gifts will be subject to a disbursement requirement. In particular, an 80 percent disbursement requirement will be applied to transfers to charitable organizations.*" [Source](#)

This will mean that if you, as Charitable Agency "A", receive a grant from a foundation in one year, you must spend 80% of the funds by the end of the following year unless the donation is a specified gift. (Contributing to an endowment, and requesting permission for an "accumulation of property" are other ways to work with the disbursement requirement.)

Formerly, only granting foundations and private foundations have been subject to disbursement quotas.

So far Client Assistance Officers at the Charities Directorate have not been given a rationale for the new disbursement requirement. If you have questions or concerns about unintended consequences for your organization, you can contact the Charities Directorate, Canada Revenue Agency, Ottawa, ON K1A 0L5 or (800) 267-2384. For more on the CRR Initiative, see [Highlights](#).

## → SAVE MONEY!!

Have you tried the Co-op's purchasing [Help Desk](#)? You'll be surprised how much even efficient organizations can save.

## → THE BIG THINK

Is Ottawa's new found interest in "The Social Economy" a good thing? What is the "Social Economy" anyway? And what does it mean for you?

Watch for **The Big Think** -- a new Co-op offering on major issues, trends and concepts relevant to our sector. And let us know what YOU think!

## → CLIENT SYSTEMS

A customized client data system is a powerful way to support frontline staff. That's what PLEA discovered through its partnership with Brenson Pacific Technologies and the Co-op. The system:

- supports front line staff to plan and record their work with clients
- meets accreditation standards, and
- reduces paperwork time.

The PLEA system also helps managers to supervise more effectively and to produce program and agency reports that meet Ministry requirements. But the real boon is that staff and referring social workers **like** the system. [Click here](#) for more info.