

## Why more Canadians are leaving a gift to charity in their Wills

We are lucky. Supporters of congregations and organizations within the ELCIC are thoughtful individuals, who share a concern for their church and community and are committed to building a better future and making a difference.

Often people think about contributing to the causes they care about with their weekly or monthly offerings, or volunteering time, but there is a growing number of people who are going one step further and leaving a gift to charity in their Wills. These are ordinary Lutherans like you who've realized they can make a powerful contribution that will last for generations to come, without taking away from the resources they or their families need.



This new mindset among Canadians of all ages has been triggered, to some extent, by the intensity of recent global events and the realization that it's possible to do more just by giving in a different way.

In fact, if more Canadians left even a minuscule percentage of their estate to charity, the sum of all their efforts could represent as much as \$40 billion to advance causes important to you and your faith community, such as refugee resettlement, addressing food insecurity issues, or redeveloping your church's physical assets to assist with the greening of the premises and to support outward-looking community service, to name a few.

When you look into it, you may be surprised to learn that a donation of as little as a 1% of your estate can result in a bigger contribution than you ever thought possible. You are still leaving 99% of your estate to support your loved ones, and you're not using any of the money you need now.

The best part is that leaving a gift in your Will can be a very simple process. Here are a few suggestions that can help you take the next steps:

- 1. Calculate your donation.** You can determine how much you want to leave to charity, and how much you want your loved ones to receive, with a simple



calculation. You can make that calculation using the [Legacy Calculator](#) tool developed by Will Power, a national public education campaign designed to inspire Canadians to think differently about charitable giving.

- 2. Discover the tax benefits.** Did you know the Canadian government has created some of the best tax incentives in the world to encourage more giving to charity, especially from your estate? Just to cite an example, this article illustrates how a couple's financial advisor helped them [give big to charity and take advantage of the tax benefits](#), all while leaving a sizeable inheritance for their daughters.
- 3. Ask a financial advisor.** Consulting a financial expert can help you maximize your donation and ensure it works in your favour. [Here is a handy guide](#) to start the conversation with your advisor.
- 4. Find out how to keep the love going.** Learn how a gift in your Will to your congregation, or another expression of the church would be used to advance the mission of the church [here](#). Or you can contact Kathryn Smith, Giving Advisor at 1-888-308-9461 to find out more, including how your gift can support other charities that you care about.

Who would have thought of a Will as a powerful tool to make change in the world? But more and more Canadians are harnessing the power of their Wills to become larger-than-life philanthropists who continue to inspire others and make an impact on the future. Join the movement and keep the love going for what matters to you!

