

What are Permitted Political Activities for Canadian Charities?

The CRA permits non-partisan political activities if they are connected and subordinate to the charity's purpose (in KAIROS' case "the ongoing participation in God's Mission for justice and peace in the world"ⁱ). Vast majority of activities must be charitable. Information used must be informative, accurate and well reasoned.

Prohibited activities: 'partisan political' and 'illegal'

A partisan political activity is one that involves direct or indirect support of, or opposition to, any political party or candidate for public office. This is **not** permitted by a charitable organization.

Distinguishing between non-partisan political and charitable activities ⁱⁱ	
Political Activities	Charitable Activities
<p>The activity involves any one or more of the followingⁱⁱⁱ:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "explicitly communicates a call to political actions (i.e., encourages the public to contact an elected representative or public official and urges them to retain, oppose or change the law, policy or decision at any level of government in Canada or a foreign country); 2. explicitly communicates to the public that the law, policy or decision of any level of government in Canada or a foreign country should be retained (if the retention of the law, policy or decision is being reconsidered by a government), opposed, or changed; 3. explicitly indicates in its materials (whether internal or external) that the intention of the activity is to incite, or organize to put pressure on, an elected representative or public official to retain oppose or change the law, policy or decision of any level of government in Canada or a foreign country." 4. providing a financial gift (viz., grant) to another charity (viz., global South partner) so that the other charity may engage in a political activity. 	<p>The activity involves any one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. communicating to the public the charity's (viz., KAIROS') view(s) on a particular social or other issue related to the charity's (viz., KAIROS) mission. 2. <u>meeting</u> with elected representatives or public officials to brief them on a particular issue, including advocating for the retention or abolition or change of a government policy or decision or law. 3. the <u>release to the public of the submission/representation made to elected representatives or public officials.</u> 4. "upholding human rights ... that seek to encourage, support, and defend human rights that have been secured by law, both in Canada and abroad. Upholding the administration and enforcement of the law is a well-recognized charitable purpose."^{iv}

ⁱ UCC language as expressed in KAIROS' Framework Agreement for Mutual Participation in Mission used by GPP.

ⁱⁱ Drawn from "Faithful Citizens: Making a Difference for the Common Good, Engaging in Political Activities as a Charity", Iler Campbell, November 24, 2012.

ⁱⁱⁱ Canada Revenue Agency, CPS-22, Policy Statement, Political Activities, September 2, 2003.

^{iv} Canada Revenue Agency, CG-001, Guidance, Upholding Human Rights and Charitable Registration, May 15, 2010.