

Planned Giving

Your options for planning a gift to Muscular Dystrophy Canada

“I knew finding a cure would have to be a long-term goal, which we’d have to be patient... I also knew a cure wasn’t going to happen in my son’s lifetime, maybe not even in my own. But I knew it would help future generations. In fact, the research the organization has supported over the years is already beginning to pay dividends. And that makes me very happy.” —Dr. David Green, Muscular Dystrophy Canada founder

Autumn, 1954: the setting is a kitchen table in Toronto. A group of parents sit together discussing their children’s needs and futures. Their children have Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a neuromuscular disorder. These parents decide to make the greatest initial investment: they launch Muscular Dystrophy Canada to fund scientific research in order that one day, treatments and cures for neuromuscular disorders might be found, and – until that time – to provide services, care, and support.

Today, the staff and volunteers of Muscular Dystrophy Canada still meet around kitchen tables on occasion, but they also meet around laboratory tables, picnic tables, and virtual tables on the Internet. Muscular Dystrophy Canada funds research across the country: progress has been made in treating the symptoms of some neuromuscular disorders, although no cures have yet been found. Over ten thousand Canadians



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with neuromuscular disorders reach out to Muscular Dystrophy Canada for assistance, whether it is for help purchasing equipment like a wheelchair, an opportunity to come together and share with other families, or for assistance advocating for better support for themselves and their loved ones.

To continue to invest in excellent research and better support for people living with neuromuscular disorders, we need your help. One of the ways you can make a difference now and in the future is through a planned gift.

What is a planned gift?

Planning a gift involves deliberation, as you take into consideration the needs of family as well as a meaningful gift to a cause you believe in. Planning a gift could mean leaving a gift to Muscular Dystrophy Canada in a will, or making Muscular Dystrophy Canada a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. It could be giving a gift of art or real estate, a gift of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, or a gift to a specific fund named after yourself or someone you wish to honour.

Planned gifts often have other advantages, such as a greater tax benefit to you. They can allow you to give a larger or more meaningful gift than if you contribute funds readily at hand.

Ways of making a planned gift

A Gift through Your Will

One of the most popular ways of making a planned gift is a bequest: a gift left in a will to Muscular Dystrophy Canada. You could add Muscular Dystrophy Canada to a new will, or amend your existing will. You can bequeath a portion of your estate, or a gift of securities or other property (see below).

If you already have a will, you are on the right track. You obviously understand the value of having a well-planned estate. A will makes it much easier for your family and friends to receive the money and valued possessions you leave behind. Without a will, provincial laws determine who receives what. If you do not have blood relatives, it is likely your provincial government will receive your estate, instead of the friends or organizations you wish to benefit. By preparing a will you decide how your estate is distributed.

“I have to give back to Muscular Dystrophy Canada because they’ve always been such a huge support. We have to inspire people to raise the next dollar, because just one more dollar, that next dollar may be the one which finds the cure.”

—Danielle Campo, Paralympian, volunteer, and person with a neuromuscular disorder

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Benefits to You

- A gift in your will is a cost-effective and tax-effective way to establish a substantial gift to Muscular Dystrophy Canada while maintaining financial security.

- Your estate may claim gifts in the year of death equal to 100% of your net income in that year and the preceding year.
- A gift in your will can be modified if your financial situation changes during your lifetime.
- A gift in your will is a lasting testimony and a way to fulfill your personal commitment to enhance the lives of those affected with neuromuscular disorders, while helping the search for a cure through well funded research.

Establishing a Gift in your Will

It is important to use our full registered name:

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CANADA

2345 Yonge St, Suite 900

Toronto, Ontario M4P 2E5

Our charitable registration number is

10775 5837 RR0001

Should you decide to leave a gift to Muscular Dystrophy Canada in your will, please let us know. We can help you and your legal counsel with the wording of the clause in your will, discuss the impact of your gift and various options to ensure that your wishes are carried out as you intended.

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“I am always impressed with the clients. They have an incredible outlook on life. People look at Fire Fighters as heroes – these people and their families are heroes. They face challenges each moment of each day, 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week. It’s inspiring.”

—Alan Bartley, retired Fire Fighter, explaining why he has volunteered with Muscular Dystrophy Canada for over 45 years

Life Insurance

Your gift of a life insurance policy allows you to make a significant contribution in the future for a relatively modest investment today. You may consider presenting a gift of an existing policy, creating a new policy or simply naming Muscular Dystrophy Canada as a beneficiary.

Each type of gift provides a different kind of tax credit, so we recommend that you work with your life insurance agent to determine what best suits your needs.

Benefits

- A planned gift of life insurance saves you tax dollars today. Not only is this important if you are looking for immediate tax relief, it also means you can make sure the tax-deductible limit is not exceeded.

- Your estate is not diminished to your heirs, because life insurance by its very nature creates an additional, separate ‘estate’.
- Life insurance is not subject to probate costs or delays in settlement. The full proceeds are payable to Muscular Dystrophy Canada at maturity or death.
- Life insurance is not a matter of public record. You can plan, arrange and announce the gift yourself and you will know that it will occur just as you planned.
- A gift of life insurance cannot be contested.
- Insurance allows you to make a substantial gift without taking on a large expense.

Options for Establishing a Gift of Life Insurance

There are many ways to leave a gift of life insurance to Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

You can:

- Make Muscular Dystrophy Canada the beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy, or a new one. A major bequest can be created for the cost of a monthly premium (a tax deductible expense).

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- Donate an existing policy and receive a tax receipt for the cash surrender value and any subsequent premiums paid. This can be done simply by designating Muscular Dystrophy Canada as the irrevocable owner and beneficiary.
- Donate a new policy by designating Muscular Dystrophy Canada as the irrevocable owner and beneficiary. You will receive a tax receipt for the full amount of premiums paid after the date of transfer.
- Name Muscular Dystrophy Canada as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy from your employer. A tax deduction for the estate will be available when the death benefit proceeds from the policy are paid directly to the charity.

We recommend you discuss your gift intentions with a life insurance agent to determine which type of insurance best suits your needs. When you are ready to proceed, we would be pleased to assist you in completing your gift.

Gifts of Securities

Stocks and bonds (including mutual funds) may be transferred to the organization without first being converted to cash. For highly appreciated securities, generous tax advantages make this a wiser choice than cash. Or perhaps you have some artwork or real estate: Muscular Dystrophy Canada can discuss the options available to you to make these into valued gifts.



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In 2006, the capital gains tax was eliminated on all gifts of publicly-traded securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) made to registered charities. This provision offers donors the opportunity to realize significant tax savings by donating securities directly to Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

The donation must be an ‘in kind’ transfer of the security itself, not the cash proceeds from the sale of the security. Such a transfer is easily made electronically from your investment account to Muscular Dystrophy Canada’s brokerage account.

Benefits

- You will receive a tax receipt for the full appreciated value of your gift based on the closing trading price on the day it is received by us.
- Your charitable donation can be claimed for up to 75% of your net income and any unused donation amount can be carried forward over the next five years.
- If you have appreciated stock and charitable intent, you may wish to use this recent incentive to contribute a significant gift to support the fight against neuromuscular disorders.

“[My son] Alex is starting to become more aware of my role as a volunteer with Muscular Dystrophy Canada. He’s starting to feel a personal connection with the research, funded by Muscular Dystrophy Canada, that he feels might help him and others like him. He gets excited about the donations and I think he gets some comfort from knowing the organization is behind him and us.”

—Debra Chiabai, Muscular Dystrophy Canada Board Member and mother of a son with a neuromuscular disorder

Establishing a Gift of Securities

- Muscular Dystrophy Canada will provide you with a stock donation form and information that your broker will need to carry out the stock transfer.
- You can begin the transfer process by completing the donation form and sending it to your broker. A copy should also be sent to Muscular Dystrophy Canada.
- Your broker should provide you with an estimate of how long it will take to complete the transaction. The transfer is frequently done electronically.

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- The stock will be valued at the closing price on the date it is received in the Muscular Dystrophy Canada brokerage account.
- Shares received through a bequest will be receipted for the closing value on the date of death.
- An official receipt for income tax purposes will be issued by Muscular Dystrophy Canada and forwarded to you.

It is a simple process to make this kind of gift through your broker. Please contact us in advance and we will be happy to provide you with all the necessary information to facilitate the transfer.

Charitable Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity is a way of donating an irrevocable gift to Muscular Dystrophy Canada in return for guaranteed income for the rest of your life. This can also provide a substantial tax break.

A portion of your gift of a minimum of \$10,000 is invested in a gift annuity, giving you a lifetime income at a fixed rate comparable to most commercial investments. Depending on your age at the time of your gift, a substantial portion, if not all of the annuity income is tax-free. You receive payments at your choice of intervals. Joint annuities are available for couples, or you may purchase an annuity for another person, such as a parent or grandparent.

Benefits

- You can increase your current after-tax spendable income.
- It provides the security of a fixed guaranteed income.
- If you are in a high tax bracket you might want more tax-free income.
- A significant portion, if not all, of the income from a gift annuity is tax-free. In all cases, a donation receipt is issued, resulting in further tax savings.

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Establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity

- Your donation to Muscular Dystrophy Canada of \$10,000 or more is invested in a guaranteed life annuity with a major insurance company.
- A portion of the donation (20%-25%) is used by Muscular Dystrophy Canada immediately as you wish it to be used.
- You will receive a guaranteed lifetime income and, depending on your age (you should be 70 or older), your income will be substantially or entirely tax-free. You will also receive a tax receipt for the gift portion to Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

“I am involved in helping Muscular Dystrophy Canada to find a cure to help all the young people and to avoid the kids from suffering from muscular dystrophy.”

—Dan Burgess, Volunteer Chapter member on the topic of what a cure for neuromuscular disorders would mean to him and person with a neuromuscular disorder

Charitable Remainder Trusts

A charitable remainder trust allows you to receive an immediate tax receipt for a gift that Muscular Dystrophy Canada will receive in the future.

The gift, in the form of cash, stocks, bonds or real estate is invested by your financial institution or trust company (trustee) to give you ongoing income from the trust for the rest of your life. After your lifetime, the assets remaining in the trust will be used by Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

Benefits

- You receive an immediate tax receipt for the present value of the residual interest.
- You receive an annual income from the assets in the trust.
- Irrevocable trusts are not included in the value of your estate, thus avoiding probate fees.
- Gifts of appreciated property can be structured to avoid capital gains tax.

Establishing a Charitable

Remainder Trust

- The trust is created by irrevocably transferring ownership of assets to a trustee (your financial institution or trust company).
- A trust document is created naming Muscular Dystrophy Canada as the residual beneficiary and is signed by you and Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

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- The present value of the residual interest is determined and Muscular Dystrophy Canada will issue a charitable tax receipt for this amount.
- You will receive income from the trust for life or a set term of years and upon termination, the trustee will pay out the remaining trust assets to Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

Other Ways to Give

You may wish to consider other options, such as an outright gift of artwork, or real estate, or residual interest in such a tangible asset. Please contact us to discuss these or other options; we would be pleased to work with you to develop a gift that is meaningful to you and will realize the maximum benefit of your charitable giving plans.

Opportunities to increase the benefit of your gift

Named & Endowed Funds

Muscular Dystrophy Canada allows you to name a fund after yourself or someone you wish to honour. These funds are often directed to specific purposes that you designate. An endowed fund is a wise choice because it provides far into the future, as the income from the fund



is used to benefit our charitable activities: an endowment is a way of ensuring the sustainability of programs and resources.

Purpose of Gift or Fund

Most gifts and funds are usually applied towards the area of greatest need. Alternatively, you may wish to direct your gift or fund to be used in a specific area – such as research or services for persons with neuromuscular disorders.

Please note that named, endowed, and donor-directed funds have restrictions under taxation law and Muscular Dystrophy Canada donation policies. Contact us to discuss your options for these type of gifts.

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THE 1954 SOCIETY

The 1954 Society expresses our appreciation for your commitment and support. The 1954 Society recognizes those individuals who have made – or have pledged (such as in a will) – a planned gift to Muscular Dystrophy Canada. In the same way that the founders of Muscular Dystrophy Canada established a lasting legacy by creating the organization in 1954, the members of The 1954 Society establish a legacy of hope for tomorrow through their planned gifts.

As well as special recognition in our Annual Report, members of The 1954 Society enjoy other benefits and recognition for their commitment to Muscular Dystrophy Canada and the fight against neuromuscular disorders.

Alternatively, you may wish to make your gift anonymously. We will take great care to honour your wishes.

The information provided in this document is not intended as legal advice or personalized financial planning. Muscular Dystrophy Canada cannot provide financial or legal opinions. We strongly encourage you to consult your family and obtain independent professional advice.

This information was updated on October 27, 2011

Muscular Dystrophy Canada is a member of Imagine Canada, and we abide by their Statement on Accountability.

Charitable Registration Number 10775 5837 RR0001

“I feel grateful today for my past with Muscular Dystrophy Canada; that it has been part of my life to be able to contribute something to muscular dystrophy. I think the greatest joy I have today is meeting a person who tells me – ‘Years ago you were the first person who contacted me after we had our diagnosis of muscular dystrophy, and I feel very close to you.’”

—Mary Ann Wickham, Services program founder

For more information

We hope that this document provides you with enough information to allow you to consider making a planned gift. If you require further information, please contact us. We will be pleased to speak with you about your options for planning a gift to Muscular Dystrophy Canada. Please contact:

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