



Financial supporters of Covenant Christian Community Church during 2021 and 2022,

On December 15 someone reached out to us with a question that led us to realize we had a serious issue. After a few minutes of our own investigating, we came to discover that our status as a registered charity with the CRA had been revoked as of November 6, 2021, because they had not received some necessary paperwork from us.

We quickly followed up and discovered that this happened as a result of a series of small mistakes, reasonable presumptions during COVID times, and some volunteers just not having access to information. In normal circumstances, none of the individual things that led to this would have happened or they would have been resolved before they were issues. But we have not been in normal circumstances.

Upon finding out about the issue a team quickly mobilized to gather the necessary information and submit all the documents to the CRA. We were given every indication that things would be resolved quickly (certainly before 2021 tax receipts were to be issued) and so we decided, at that point, to not share information with you that would not ultimately impact you.

By early January the CRA had received all of our delayed documents and by mid-January, the CRA had received all additional paperwork from us. Every indication was that we were still on track to have this resolved before the end of February and we had made arrangements to ensure everything would be taken care of in future years.

In a conversation with our CRA contact on February 21, however, we learned that:

- A. Due to the protests in Ottawa work had to be halted and our most recent paperwork hadn't even been opened.
- B. Upon opening the paperwork, there was some information that was incomplete (it has since been completed and sent).
- C. The protests (along with many other charities being in a similar situation) have created delays and backlogs that could leave us waiting for 5-6 months before we are able to issue official receipts.

We have been assured that once this is resolved *all contributions* will be recognized. And while we each have five years in which to claim contributions on our tax returns, we do recognize the challenges and frustration this causes for those who planned on their contributions making a significant difference to their 2021 tax return. We are truly sorry for the struggles this has caused.

You will, very soon, receive an *unofficial* record of your 2021 giving along with a copy of this letter. If we learn that we are able to issue receipts for contributions prior to November 6, 2021, we will do so immediately. We recognize that many of you may want to talk to someone about what is going on. You may ask Pastor Jon questions, however, this is not his area of responsibility. You may speak to an individual board member, however, be aware that as only one board member they may not be able to speak for or represent the entire board. If you have any questions or comments you would like shared with the entire board, we have set up the email board@covenantchurch.ca where you can reach out to us. Anything sent there will be distributed to the entire board before a response comes.

We are sorry for the challenges that have led to this situation. We are sorry that we were not able to resolve it before it impacted you. We are sorry for the impact this has on you. We are praying that this will be resolved quickly, that the steps we have put in place for future years will prevent it from happening again, and that it will not hinder our ability to continue the work of Jesus in our community and beyond as we move through 2022.

Sincerely,

The 2021 Board of Covenant Christian Community Church