

**Incorporated:** Incorporation is the legal process used to form a corporate entity or company. A [corporation](#) is the resulting legal entity that separates the firm's assets and income from its owners and investors ([Investopedia, 2019](#)).

**Sole Proprietorship:** A sole proprietorship also referred to as a sole trader or a proprietorship, is an unincorporated business that has just one owner who pays [personal income](#) tax on profits earned from the business ([Investopedia, 2019](#)).

**Co-operative:** A cooperative is owned by the same people it serves. Its offerings benefit the company's members, who vote on the organization's mission and direction ([Business News Daily, 2018](#)).

**Partnership:** This entity is owned by two or more individuals. There are two types: general partnerships, where all is shared equally; and limited partnerships, where only one partner has control of its operation, while the other person or persons simply contribute to and receive only part of the profit. Partnerships carry a dual status as a sole proprietorship or limited liability partnership (LLP), depending on the entity's funding and liability structure ([Business News Daily, 2019](#)).

**Community Initiative:** A community initiative is generally a network of individuals and partner organizations dedicated to improving the health and welfare of a community. It seeks to deal with and reduce the effect of social problems, in order to improve peoples' quality of life ([US Legal, 2019](#)).

**Registered Charity:** Registered charities are charitable organizations, public foundations, or private foundations that are created and resident in Canada. They must use their resources for charitable activities and have charitable purposes that fall into one or more of the following categories: the relief of poverty, the advancement of education, the advancement of religion, other purposes that benefit the community ([Government of Canada, 2019](#)).

**Registered Non-profit:** Non-profit organizations are associations, clubs, or societies that are not charities and are organized and operated exclusively for social welfare, civic improvement, pleasure, recreation, or any other purpose except profit ([Government of Canada, 2019](#)).

**Note:** If you are operating as a charity, you cannot be considered a non-profit organization, even if you are not registered or cannot be registered as a charity. You can only meet one definition, not both.