1. Purpose
The purpose of this policy is to outline the BCWWA Board policy regarding selection of charitable organizations that the Association may support through donations in cash or in-kind.

2. Scope
This policy applies to all solicited or unsolicited support to charitable organizations.

3. Background
As a not-for-profit organization, the BCWWA must comply with the mandate outlined in its constitution and bylaws, and the provisions of the Income Tax Act. As the BCWWA’s constitution is silent about raising funds for charitable purposes, the Association must use caution in its approach to charitable support, in order to protect its not-for-profit status. This means that the BCWWA should avoid establishing a systematic program of regular contributions to charities; instead, the Association may periodically contribute excess funds to a charity of the Board’s choice, provided that those funds are a result of an unintentional over-accumulation of reserves.

4. General Principles for Selection of a “Charity of Choice”
   a) Charity of Choice will be identified by Board resolution.
   b) A Charity of Choice Policy shall be established, posted on the website, and provided to BCWWA’s Charities of Choice annually.
   c) A Charity of Choice relationship is not necessarily exclusive; BCWWA may support up to 3 charities concurrently.
   d) Charity of Choice designation is reviewed by the Board annually.

5. Charity of Choice Selection Criteria
   a) Charity of Choice objectives should be well-aligned with BCWWA Mission, Vision & Core Values.
   b) A Charity of Choice should contribute to BCWWA’s understanding of water issues and have a positive influence on the broader community.
   c) A Charity of Choice must have methods in place to measure and evaluate its success on its plans and initiatives.
d) A Charity of Choice should have volunteer opportunities for members of the water & waste community.

e) Ideally, a Charity of Choice relationship will provide means for members of the BC water & waste community to apply and develop their personal and professional skills, beyond their employment and geographic context.