



Capacity Building Training Programme
Module 1 - Unit 3
Worksheet 1



Activity: We Charity Scandal

Instructions: Watch the video, conduct research with your group and identify the key points of wrongdoing with the WE Charity Scandal. Note the key points at the bottom of the page.

WE Charity Scandal

WE Charity is an international charity with its headquarters in Canada that focuses on education, water, health, food and economic development. The charity implements projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America that promote active citizenship and run domestic programs for young people in Canada, the US and UK.

It was founded in 1995, by Marc and Craig Kielburger, as Free the Children and, in 2016, was rebranded as WE Charity. The charity's mission is to work with developing communities and empower children and families to stop their cycle of poverty and exploitation. Over the years, this expanded further to include the empowerment of youth at home, connecting them with global issues and social causes. They have also partnered up with schools to inspire young change-makers from within the classroom.

In the recent history of the charity, a scandal broke out. In the mid of 2020, the Canadian government outsourced the implementation and administration of the Canada Student Service Grant program (CSSG) – financial support to students through the granting of money for every hour spent on volunteering activities – amounting to \$912 million, to WE Charity. Sometime after, the Liberal Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth made an announcement that WE Charity would no longer be administering this program due to ethical violations (WE Charity Scandal).

The Ethics Commissioner initiated an investigation into the Prime Minister's involvement in the scandal, as it was revealed that Trudeau's family members had received funds for participating in WE Charity's events. In addition, the Minister of Finance's family members were found to have worked in unrelated work for the charity.

Key points identified:

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