

# Fundraising Ideas from A to Z!

## A

**Art Sales:** This one is a perfect way to get children under 14 involved. Have students produce great works of art and have a show. Parents and friends buy back their budding artists' masterpieces.

**Ask, ask and ask again:** Get family, friends and co-workers to donate. Have them ask their networks to support you. If you host a personal fundraiser, ask your company to provide a match for every dollar that has been raised.

**Auction:** Do you know anyone that would be willing to donate items or services to raise funds (Tickets to games, theatre tickets, concerts, premium parking spots for a month, lunch with a Senior Executive, Shadow a Senior person for a day, coffee with your boss, etc.)? You can host a silent auction, and/or a live auction with items valued over \$1,000.

## B

**Baby photo competition:** Ask all your students and/or colleagues to bring in their baby photos. Scan the photos and pin them up or circulate a sheet that includes all of them. Charge your students and/or colleagues a fee for a chance to match the photos to the worker. Award a prize for the most correct answers.

**Bad hair day:** Pay a fee to go to school/work sporting a crazy hairstyle. The craziest wins a prize!

**Bad taste day:** Who can wear the worst outfit to school/work? All entrants can pay a fee. The winner (or loser!) wins a small prize and the funds are donated.

**Bake Sales:** Hold a Friday bake sale so students/staff have treats for the weekend. Ask for items to be wrapped attractively so they could be given as gifts. An alternative to this is to take orders for baked goods. Provide the order form – this ensures that people are getting what they want!

**Balloon-o-gram:** Sell balloons to students/staff to give to their friends and family. They can buy a balloon, include a brief note and have it sent to another classroom. Balloon recipients get affirmation, your school gets decorated with colorful balloons—and you make money for your cause.

**Barbeque:** Buy buns and meat in bulk and/or on sale, and then charge your students/parents/staff. Be sure to tell them about the cause!

**Battle of the Bands:** Audition students to battle it out in a fundraising concert. You can sell tickets to the event. Be sure to have everyone vote on their favorite and give that band a prize.

**Birthday/Christmas Gift Pledge:** Instead of your family/friends giving you gifts, ask them to pledge Alberta Cancer Foundation.

**Bottle Drive:** Get students to let people in their neighborhoods know that they will be coming around to collect empty bottles the day after New Year's Eve, Saint Patrick's Day, etc. Collect the bottles and turn them in to the bottle depot. Create competition between classes.

## C

**Car wash:** For really simple fundraising ideas, look no farther than the parking lot. There's bound to be someone in the school who wants their hubcaps polished at lunchtime!



**Casual and theme days:** For \$2 - \$5 each, sell "casual day" stickers that allow employees to dress casually on certain days. Or designate certain casual days as "crazy days" and encourage employees to show their wild side. Examples: Stupid Hat Day, Outrageous Socks Day, Sports Team Day, Dress-up Day.

**Cookbook:** Ask your foods teachers/students to bring in their favorite recipe and compile them into a school Cookbook. Sell them for \$10 - \$15 with proceeds going to Alberta Cancer Foundation.

**Cook-off:** Have contestants pay a fee for entering their prized dishes. Have a panel of judges choose the best dish and the winner gets a prize.

**Corporate help:** Ask local companies to give you a percentage of sales on a certain product.

**Crazy hat contest:** Employees pay to enter the hat contest. Each entrant makes and wears a zany hat. During lunch hour, stage a hat parade and staff votes for the zaniest hat. Give a prize to the winner.

## D

**Dance-a-thon:** Invite students and families to partake in a dance-a-thon. They could collect pledges based on how long they stay on the dance floor! Ensure you have a good playlist of upbeat songs, and consider selling snacks and refreshments for additional cost.

**Dinner:** Have your staff host a theme dinner. Get a hall donated and have each member of your team prepare part of the meal. Sell tickets and get some entertainment donated. (Christmas Party)

**Donation Buckets:** Have team members stand outside businesses with donation cans (ensure you get permission from the business first).

**Donation matching:** See if your place of employment will match donations made by others, up to a set amount.

## E

**Egg and Spoon Race:** All you need is some spoons, some eggs, some willing volunteers and it a bit of space in which to race. Charge participants to enter, with the winner of the race being awarded a small prize. (Could be part of a school wide carnival day)

**Envelopes at restaurant tables:** Place an Alberta Cancer Foundation donation envelope at every table, stating "Please Support Our Alberta Cancer Foundation Fundraising." Waitresses check envelopes after each seating.

**Executive auction:** Ask your company's executive staff to donate one hour for a fundraising auction. Have employees bid on each executive, with proceeds to benefit your efforts. The executive then takes over the highest-bidding employee's job for the appointed hour.

## F

**Flowers and plants:** Sell your extra house plants or bouquets from your garden; or contact your local florists and ask them to donate a portion of sales during Valentine's Day or any other holiday to your fundraiser.

**Funniest home videos:** Encourage students/employees to bring in their funniest home videos or create new ones. Allot a time for showing videos. Establish a small entry fee. Funniest video wins grand prize of a donated DVD player or other appropriate prize.

**Fun Run:** Get sponsored to take part in an organized race - or organize your own school-wide race. We are also partnered with Servus Calgary Marathon which happens in May every year.

## G

**Gala: Hosting a gala dinner** can be a lot of work but can be very beneficial if you know the right people and look to secure sponsors. Charge ticket sales, host an auction, provide a meal, have an emcee speak, and host activations throughout the night.

**Gift wrapping:** During the holidays, teams can set up at school. Valentine's Day is another ideal time for teams to offer a gift wrapping booth. Charge \$2 - \$5 per gift, depending on the size of the item and number of items being wrapped.

**Golf Tournament:** Get your company, friends, and neighbours together to host your own golf tournament. Set up teams of four, secure in-kind food sponsors, and paid sponsors, provide a tee gift, meals and a presentation. You can also provide donated prizes. Golf tournaments can be a lot of work but can raise a lot of money.

**Goody basket silent auction:** Have teachers pick a theme for a gift basket and encourage each staff to donate an item for the basket. Collect the baskets and wrap them in clear plastic or cellophane and a big bow and place them publicly for a day or week. Supply paper and pen at each basket so parents and staff can bid. Highest bidders buy the baskets. Ideas for themes: baby, movie/entertainment, coffee/tea, knitting/sewing, toys, Italian cooking, bathing fragrances.

**'Going without' sponsorship:** Get people to sponsor every hour you go without something.

**Guessing jars:** Participants pay \$2 for their chance to guess how many jelly beans, etc are in the jar. Winner gets the jar and all of its contents.

## H

**Head Shaving:** For those staff/students with long flowing locks this could earn you shed loads of cash. Or if you aren't feeling brave, get sponsored to shave the head of a hairy (willing) staff/student.

**Heart-o-grams/Candygrams:** Sell hearts for Valentine's Day or candy at Christmas, and deliver them to students/staffs desks.

**Historical:** Students/staff come to work dressed in clothing from their favorite eras. Employees decorate offices/classrooms according to the era selected. Charge a participation fee or ask for donations from participants.

**Holiday fun:** For the holiday falling closest to your campaign, have students decorate their classrooms and award a prize to the best-decorated. Winner is announced at a holiday lunch. Each employee or department pays a fee of \$10 to enter the contest.

**Hoops contest:** Erect a Nerf ball basketball hoop in an out-of-the-way location. Schedule a time for an elimination shooting match. Students/staff make a donation of \$5 - \$10 to enter the match and the winner receives a prize.

**Hot-breakfast sale:** Sell a hot breakfast once a week until your fundraising campaign ends. Organizers bring ingredients, and then cook the orders in the break room/kitchen. Some examples: croissant with egg and cheese for \$4; add two strips of bacon for 50 cents more. Or serve pancakes, waffles, sausages, breakfast burrito, etc. For a small price, you not only get a hearty breakfast but help raise funds for a great cause!

## I

**Ice cream social:** Teams can raise funds by collecting donations for delicious ice cream delights. Get creative and decorate your location as an old fashioned ice cream parlor and soda fountain. Set up tables with a variety of board games for patrons. Play oldies on a jukebox and charge for song requests.

**International day:** Dress up in the national outfit of another country. For an added twist, ask participants to bring food appropriate to the country they're representing and maybe even to speak some of the language. Charge a \$10 admission fee and have prizes available for best dressed, most fluent, best food, etc.



## J

**Jeans day/Dress pink:** Send out a school-wide e-mail offering jeans every Friday for a month for \$20.00 or unlimited jeans for the month for \$40.00 (Be sure to check with your policies!)

**Job swap:** Have employees enter a raffle to swap jobs with a colleague for the day—maybe even the boss! Charge a \$5 entry fee and see who wins!

**Juggling competition:** Encourage staff to sponsor the competition or donate a specific amount for each ball dropped or each second or minute the juggling lasts.

## K

**Kite flying:** Hold a kite-flying day for kids. Charge for tickets, and provide refreshments (BBQ/Snacks).

## L

**Laugh it out:** Host a comedy event at school. You can charge for cover and drink/food sales and even admission.

**Line-dancing (or swing dancing):** Host a dance at the school. Send out invites to the community. Charge a fee to attend and for drinks/snacks. Get everyone in the spirit with costumes and decorations.

**Litter Picking:** Neighbors to the school will be very willing to donate if students are cleaning up a local park or kids' playground. This is a way to help your local community while raising money.

## M

**Mailing list:** Add to your return address labels, "I'm doing a fundraiser to raise money for Alberta Cancer Foundation."

**Miniature golf classic:** Have a pay-to-play miniature golf tournament, with different classrooms designing each "hole." Have prizes for the best-designed hole. For an additional charge, offer pizza and salad (donated by a local eatery).

**Monthly giving:** Ask people who are unable to sponsor you right away to sponsor you a set amount monthly. For example, \$15 per month.

**Movie and popcorn:** On Fridays, sell \$4 passes for a movie you can show in a conference room or somewhere with a projector or large-screen TV. Provide popcorn. Showing starts in late afternoon or shortly before work ends so you don't disrupt work.

## N

**Name bead bonanza:** Take orders for personalized bracelets, key chains, necklaces, etc. for a donation.

**Nearly new sale:** Invite students/parents/staff to bring in their gently used items for donation. Host a weekend garage sale to raise funds.

**Non-events:** Get people to donate the money they would save by not going to an event.

## O

**Obstacle course:** Create an obstacle course and have a prize for the winner. Encourage local sports teams and businesses to enter teams and charge an admission fee. (Compete against other schools)

**Office fundraising challenge:** Ask everyone in your office to challenge each other to raise the most money. Give the winner(s) a prize: movie passes, for example, or a dinner gift card.



## P

**Pancake breakfast:** Have a traditional pancake breakfast at school and either set a price for students/parents/staff to take part or ask for donations!

**Pedometer challenge:** Wear a pedometer and get people to guess how many steps you will take in a day. Charge \$2 per guess and the closest guess wins a prize.

**Pickleball Tournament:** Host your very own pickleball tournament and make it a fundraising challenge. Get active while making a difference.

**Pot Luck lunches at the workplace:** Name every Wednesday "Alberta Cancer Foundation Pot Luck Day." Team members take turns preparing foods, salads, desserts, etc. and offer them to employees at the workplace for a set price or donation.

## Q

**Quest for Quarters:** Have each class complete against each other to see how many quarters they can collect. Winning class gets a prize.

## R

**Recyclables:** Do a recycling drive in your schools area. Collect recyclables and cash them in. We also are a beneficiary of "Skip the Depot".

## S

**Silent auction:** Have staff bid on items such as extra vacation days, longer lunch hours, dinner passes, casual days, etc. Money raised goes to fundraising efforts.

**Skip birthday cakes:** Does your office usually buy a cake to celebrate a staff birthday? Skip the tradition this year and put the money you would have spent toward your fundraising efforts.

**Spaghetti dinner:** Prepare a great dinner for students, teachers, or community members and charge a fee.

**Sporting events tickets:** Ask sports teams to donate a number of seats for their games and raffle off the tickets. Or Charge admission to special games played at your school.

**Snack bar:** Sell candy, chips, popcorn, soda, bagels or donuts at school to students/staff. You may be able to have goodies donated so that all the money raised will be used for the cause.

**Sports shorts:** Organize a softball, basketball, touch football or bowling tournament. Socialize away from the office and build stronger bonds among staff. Teams must pay to play.

**Survivor:** Create "tribes" (each class) to compete against one another, each containing one member from staff. Hold physical and mental challenges each day for a week in which tribes compete for prizes such as an extra 30 minutes for lunch, show tickets, etc. Challenges can include mini-putt games, puzzles, quizzes, scavenger hunts, etc. Get students to fundraiser money to receive immunity each round.

## T

**Theme dance or party:** Hold a Sock hop, beach party, square dance, or a dance for senior citizens, etc. Charge admission (\$10) and have a canteen available.

**Tickets on a basket of goodies:** Create baskets themed for holidays such as Mother's Day, Christmas, Valentine's Day or just everyday items for the everyday person! Sell tickets for \$2 - \$5.



**Tug-of-war:** Have students vs teachers or accounting vs marketing. Each team raising money for their teams, the most money raised gets an advantage in the war.

## U

**Unique boutique:** Collect or make unique one-of-a kind items for raising funds via a silent or live auction.

## V

**Vacation day:** If you are on a team with your co-workers, ask your boss if they can offer a bonus day off for the team member that raises the most money.

## W

**"Who Knows the Nose" contest:** Have staff take pictures of their noses. Hang the pictures on a wall. For a small fee (\$1), students can guess the "owners." Students who guess the most correct noses in the shortest amount of time wins a prize.

**Winter Wonderland:** Host a winter themed event at the school for the whole community, charging a fee for admission & snacks. This could be part of your Christmas Concert.

## X

**X-Mas tidings:** Make fresh evergreen wreaths and yule logs to sell adorned with festive holiday bows, berries and pinecones. You could also adjust this to other holidays (ex. Valentine's wreaths).

## Y

**Yoga Class:** Invite a local Yoga Instructor to do a class for students/staff. Ask for donations to participate.

## Z

**Zombie party:** Play a school wide zombie movie. Charge to have a tuck shop open or charge a fee for the community.