



Policy Watch

The Social Development and Poverty Reduction Ministry have the challenging task of bringing BC's new poverty-reduction legislation to life as a workable strategy in four short months. Minister Shane Simpson is understandably eager to hear from our sector on how best to break the cycle of poverty.

We buttonholed the minister after his presentation at our conference this month to see if Board Voice can land a spot on the advisory committee assisting the ministry. Who knows more about what works and what doesn't in breaking the cycle of poverty than the community organizations that have done this work for decades?

This is work that our sector knows. Rather than wait to be "done to" when the strategy emerges in March, let's grab this opportunity to influence decisions. [Here's Dawn Hemingway at the conference](#) talking about how critical community participation is in strengthening a movement for poverty reduction in BC.

What have you seen work? How would YOU break the cycle of poverty? [Send your thoughts to us](#) and we'll put together a brief to the minister and a newspaper opinion piece on how BC can achieve its goals with the support of our sector.

What you need to know...

Pension update: Thanks to members who participated in our survey on pensions. It was extremely useful heading into a conference call this week on pensions for the non-profit sector that the Federation of Community Social Services organized with the participation of Board Voice and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres.

The Fed is planning to explore the idea with their members and we're sharing our survey form with them. This initiative was prompted by [these developments in Ontario](#), where the Ontario Non-Profit Network is creating a defined-benefit pension plan for non-profits on contributions of three per cent each for employees and employers.

Results of our own pension survey among members were shared via an e-blast earlier this month. The survey results are now up on our website and you can [find them here](#) on our members' only page.

Almost 70 per cent of our members who responded to the survey believe that having a pension would improve their ability to attract and recruit new staff. But only 44 per cent favoured the Ontario model.

The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition has made it simple for British Columbians to engage their municipal council members in taking action to reduce poverty. As well as producing [a toolkit on what municipalities can and can't do](#) to prevent and reduce poverty in BC communities, the coalition has [an online app](#) that pops up the names of everyone on your local council based on the postal code you enter.

And how's this for making things easy – provide your email and postal code at the coalition site and click "Add Your Voice," and the coalition will send emails to mayor and council on your behalf.

Curious about the capital projects funded this fall through gaming dollars? [Here's the list of](#) the 55 recipients awarded a total \$5 million. These grants provide 20-50 per cent must be matched. Next window: June-July 2019.

Let's connect! Look for Board Voice on these social media platforms:



Queries, questions, concerns, ideas:

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