Sent via email

Premier Christy Clark

premier@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Michael de Jong

Fin.Minister@gov.bc.ca

I am a volunteer board director of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am writing to you with a concern about Sections 98 and 99 of the proposed Societies Act.

My specific concerns are:

* Section 99 of the proposed Societies Act would allow any member of the public or a corporation to bring legal action against a society on the basis that it is acting against an undefined “public interest”.
* According to the government’s own consultation document, the proposed provision is unprecedented.
* Volunteers, on very limited budgets, run the majority of British Columbia’s societies without experience with the law or the resources to hire lawyers. Section 99 has the potential to intimidate many societies and to divert resources away from the valuable work done by societies.
* Even if the litigation was unsuccessful costs will be imposed upon not only the litigants but upon our overburdened court system.
* Transparency and accountability are important, however, the public interest is already protected by the laws that govern charities and through contract terms when organizations receive public money.
* As a volunteer board director, I believe this unprecedented proposal to invite litigation which is unnecessary and likely counterproductive should be removed from the draft Bill.

Your government often talks about the importance of volunteers in the province of British Columbia. These sections mean people will reconsider their willingness to serve as a board director. That would be a loss to the social fabrics of communities throughout British Columbia.

I look forward to a response addressing my concerns.

Signed:

Email:

Date: