

There Is A Better Way

A BC Framework for Well-Being

We are a wealthy province, yet communities around BC continue to face intractable social issues such as poverty, homelessness, substance abuse, and violence.

We live in one of the wealthiest regions of the world but still have 90,000 children living in poverty. Our multi-billion-dollar health system can't get past the crisis management of sickness to promoting healthier lives.

Waits for vital supports grow longer and longer. Vast sums of money are spent to help at-risk families, individuals and populations, yet social problems and vulnerability persist.

Can we do better? Yes!

We wouldn't think of building a road or planning a new real-estate development without a framework for planning the project. But the concept of planning for social outcomes has been slower to catch on.

In BC, we spend many billions of dollars a year on social interventions and supports – policing, courts, community programs, income assistance, services for people with disabilities or mental health issues, park development, treatment centres, skate parks, new street lights, on and on.

Yet we spend it with no clear idea as to what we're trying to achieve, or how we'll know when we get there.

There is a better way. A social policy framework for BC would end fractured decision-making and piecemeal funding allocations. It would unite different levels of government, ministries, community organizations and sectors in working together toward an overarching vision for well-being with clear, achievable outcomes. It would ensure more British Columbians have the opportunity to be the best they can be.

We can make BC a better place for all of us!

Our Project

“There is a Better Way: A BC Framework for Wellbeing” is a two-year Board Voice initiative with the following goals:

- 15 community consultations around BC to solicit public feedback and information around how social policy could benefit people's communities;
- A survey of key provincial organizations to explore inter-organizational issues and opportunities;
- Discussions among partnership-based networks across BC around social issues, social initiatives and social policies;
- Efforts to interest and inform the provincial government around the benefits of a social policy framework for BC, and share the results and recommendations of this project.



Board Voice is a network of board directors from across BC representing and advocating for more than 60 community organizations that provide diverse and essential social services to tens of thousands of British Columbians. Visit www.boardvoice.ca to learn more.