



Policy Watch

Legislation for the Employer Health Tax was passed without change this month. [Here's key information on the tax for the non-profit sector](#), with no word yet on whether government contracts will be increased to cover the tax. Board Voice will be following the debate in the legislature and keeping you informed.

Canada's Senate wants to hear about challenges and opportunities facing the non-profit sector. The Special Senate Committee on the Charitable Sector was created in January to "examine the impact of our sector and the rules that govern it." Deadline is Nov. 2 to [respond to this short online survey](#) about your organization. Get heard!

Bookmark the TELUS community grants page for contact early next year if you're working with disadvantaged youth. TELUS [just launched the independent Friendly Future Foundation](#) with a \$120 million gift and a mandate to address the social and economic challenges facing Canada's disadvantaged youth. Application details are still to come, but TELUS overall seeks to support projects that: help youth to succeed; have a health or education focus; demonstrate technological innovation in program delivery; or define and measure social outcomes. Watch for applications to open in January/February.

What you need to know...

Board Voice submissions to the Select Standing Committee are [up on our website](#). Consultations finished Oct. 15.

Hopefully your organization was able to send in a submission. The annual opportunity to influence the BC budget is a rare chance for the community non-profit sector to influence government.

The community challenges our work addresses are being talked about in all corners these days. Whether it's childcare or the opioid crisis, poverty reduction or quality of life in seniors' care, Board Voice members do that work.

Our work addresses the social determinants of health. There's research stretching back decades establishing the impact these determinants have on a person's health over a lifetime. We are already doing that work, but BC lacks the overarching plan that would turn a grab bag of great services that exist in constant financial peril into a planned, well-supported system for social health in every BC community.

Complex societal realities and life situations can't be addressed with patchwork and unpredictable funding, chronic uncertainty around service levels, and a workforce of passionate staff who are not always adequately compensated. So please, do

engage when government invites you, and even when they don't. We know this work. With new municipal councils, this is a great time to talk. If you're doing something great - or could be if you had funding - tell somebody!

We've got a new community engagement toolkit for members and a social policy PowerPoint at [the link here](#). Members, check your email inbox for the password or [send our ED an email](#).

If government asked for your help in improving social health in BC, what would you tell them?

Come and catch up with an old friend in a new role at [Board Voice Conference 2018](#) – Jennifer Charlesworth, former Fed ED and new Representative for Children and Youth, will be joining us for dinner on Nov. 16 and giving a few remarks before the meal.

We're excited that both Jennifer and MLA Linda Reid, BC's longest-serving female MLA, will both be joining us that night, capping off a [terrific lineup of presentations](#).

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



Queries, questions, concerns, ideas:

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