



Policy Watch

Canada Revenue Agency has backed away from its hardline definition of “political activity” for charities after getting its knuckles rapped in a court case. But it’s clear from [this CRA discussion paper](#) (note the April 23 deadline to respond) that charities wanting to engage in “unlimited public policy dialogue and development activities” – AKA political activities – will still want to check in on their stated charitable purpose, as that’s now the critical piece.

Board Voice will attend an [Imagine Canada webinar](#) March 6 examining this issue and will update members. If your organization wants to attend as well, get your request in ASAP, as the guest list tops out at 100. A recording of the webinar will be available for sharing.

We’ve now received a detailed response back from Social Development Minister Shane Simpson addressing our own detailed letter of concern with the WorkBC procurement process.

Non-profit providers now hold a scant majority of WorkBC contracts, but there’s still much to be concerned about. That includes the loss of WorkBC centres in some communities due to a sharp reduction in regions (from 73 to 45), major uncertainty for workers in transition, and a points system that ignored what non-profits do best. [Here’s an update](#), including the list of successful proponents.

What you need to know...

There were a lot of issues near and dear to our sector’s heart that were selected for attention in BC Budget 2019. [Here’s our summary of budget highlights](#).

These are just high-level plans at this point, so we’ll be watching with interest to see what actions arise from these promises over the next year.

One of our members, for instance, welcomes the announcement of additional mental health and addiction support for adolescents, but wonders what that means for the scant supports currently available for children 12 and under.

We’re working with that member on a letter to government on the issue. Green Party MLA Sonia Furstenau is also inviting us to send her budget-related queries relevant to our sector that she can raise in the legislature. Our members are our eyes and ears out there – let us know where you see issues of concern.

Could there be opportunities for our sector to work in new ways with Indigenous communities with the budget-related [announcement of up to \\$2 million a year in funding](#) for every BC First Nation? Much of that investment will go to efforts addressing the social determinants of health, where we have much expertise.

For members providing services to older adults, datebook May 2-3 for the [Reducing Elder Abuse in BC conference](#) in Richmond, being put on by our member organization BC Association of Community Response Networks. Great lineup of speakers and capacity-building presentations.

And please do datebook Nov. 1-2 for Board Voice’s 10th annual conference, which will be at Kwantlen College’s Richmond campus. These are early days, but we promise you a good one.

March is Community Social Service Awareness Month, and our allies at FCSSBC are inviting us to [help tell the stories that matter](#) about the impact of our work.

All Fed members – so all of you, because Board Voice is an associate member – can participate. If you’ve got a staff person willing to share their story on why they do this work, the FCSSBC team will interview them and prepare a draft opinion piece and social media posts to share.

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



Queries, questions, concerns, ideas:

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