



Policy Watch

So many policies to watch! As noted in an e-blast this month, Board Voice was briefed by the Health Ministry on home support and there are no further plans to return anything beyond “general” home support services back to the health authorities. If you provide such services, expect transition consultations to begin in the weeks leading up to your contract end date. The ministry assures us that all displaced staff, including excluded, will have jobs waiting.

Board Voice was invited to a meeting with the Green Party caucus in April. They share our concerns with procurement processes that disfavour the non-profits that have long provided quality social care in BC. It was great to see our issues met with so much enthusiasm, but we know that when our issues start to be used as political footballs, that’s no help to us. Lasting solutions for our sector must be above ideology.

We’re seeking a meeting with Citizens Services Minister Jinny Sims to follow up on procurement. We’ve also asked for a meeting with Finance Minister Carole James to present a solution created by the NDP way back in the early 1990s – **continuing service agreements**.

Check out Board Voice Co-Chair **Terry Anne Boyles’ presentation** to the Senate Special Committee on the Charitable Sector. We were invited to present on volunteerism.

What you need to know...

Seizing every opportunity to engage is vital for our sector, and here’s some coming chances to do that.

First, wages and staff turnover – two issues that are on all of our minds lately what with the troubling news of BC’s Low Wage Redress (LWR) funds going only to certain unionized workers. The **2019 Compensation and Employee Turnover survey** is on until May 31 and your input matters.

The annual survey is a function of the Community Social Services Employers Association, which is urging all of its **186 member agencies** to participate. Data collected supports implementation of the 2019-2022 collective agreements and is used to inform the allocation and distribution of next year’s LWR increases.

The second opportunity, also wage-related, is the provincial **Fair Wages Commission hearings**. Those got underway this week in Nanaimo and continue in seven other communities through May 31.

The commission is seeking input on addressing the gap between minimum wage and a living wage in our communities. Board Voice will present in Victoria on May 31, and written feedback can be submitted to **FWC@gov.bc.ca**.

Just as we were muttering about the need for a new narrative for the non-profit sector, Imagine Canada comes out with a **Narrative Toolkit!**

The aim of the collection of resources is to give our sector the facts and figures we need to continue making the case that we are a sector to be treasured. Imagine Canada has been working on this issue since 2011, and the latest resources provide “consistent messaging that is relevant and adaptable to all our subsectors.” There’s some terrific data in the **Core Resource**.

Charities have an enviable trust level among Canadians of 79 per cent, second only to small business at 81 per cent. However, we need to be proactive in demonstrating that we are transparent and publicly accountable, as some trust indicators have fallen over time.

Social services is the third-largest sub-sector among Canada’s 170,000 non-profits and charities, accounting for 12 per cent.

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



Queries, questions, concerns, ideas:

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