



## Policy Watch

**Board Voice was** at the table for the inaugural meeting of the Social Services Roundtable last month. Created under the leadership of Hon. Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR), the first meeting brought together Board Voice and five other umbrella organizations for a two-hour conversation with Simpson and senior staff from SDPR, MCFD, Finance and Public Safety.

The goal: Figure out the changing relationship between government and community social service organizations while seeking solutions to a number of friction points between the sector and government, including procurement/contracting, wages, sustainability and service design.

Government seems tired of managing 10,000 contracts for social care services. Our sector can provide innovative answers to government's problems – ones that also address the chronic instability, uncertainty and funding shortfalls that plague our sector.

Board Voice has raised these points for roundtable attention: historic wage inequities; procurement processes that measure the value-added aspects of non-profit services; new ways of contracting; and an integrated social care strategy for all of BC.

A small working group has already begun examining historic wage inequities. Stay tuned for more roundtable developments.

## What you need to know...

**Never turn down** an opportunity to get the ear of those who make the decisions and establish the policies. With that in mind, Board Voice [presented to BC's Fair Wages Commission](#) and to the [Select Standing Committee on Finance and Governance](#) in May and June.

The messaging for our various submissions change depending on what government has asked us to talk about, but the key message underlying everything we talk about is that quality social care matters and nobody does that work with more heart and passion than community-based non-profits. Yet we are grappling with problems that government not only doesn't understand, but often has inadvertently created.

Are you seeing shifts and changes in government contracts and policies that we ought to be worrying about? Please keep your great thoughts coming as to where Board Voice should be focusing its advocacy efforts.

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**If you find yourself** in Kamloops this week, join Board Voice on the road for a two-hour working lunch at the North Shore Community Centre on a new plan for social care.

Social care is as foundational as health and education services. But unlike health and education, the social care "system" in BC and elsewhere in Canada is an irregularly funded grab-bag of terrific but tenuous services. The collective impact largely goes unmeasured. Too often, it also goes unnoticed.

Join Board Voice Society of BC Jody Paterson on June 18 for a conversation on why social care in BC needs a plan – and why the community-based non-profit sector ought to be leading that conversation.

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**Got an idea** for a seniors' program? You've still got until Friday, June 21 at noon to [submit a New Horizons Seniors Program application](#) for a one-year grant of up to \$25,000. Funding for capital works is available as well as long as it supports one or more of the program's objectives for engaging, supporting and connecting seniors.

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



**Queries, questions, concerns, ideas:**

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