



Policy Watch

Citizens' Services Minister

Jinny Sims will be meeting with Board Voice on Sept. 18. We've been trying for some time to land this meeting, as the minister's portfolio includes government procurement services.

How government procures its services is of critical importance to our sector, as there's a growing trend in BC, Canada and around the world to use procurement for social-care services.

Whether putting human services out to bid is even a good fit for the work of social care is one question. But our most immediate concern is ensuring that the unique aspects that community-based non-profits bring to the work of social care are included and scored in bids. (Learn more about that [here](#). Or [here](#). Or log into the [Members Only](#) section of our website, password *itsuptoallofus*, and click on the second link down.) Unless our sector's "special sauce" is valued and scored for in bids, our sector and communities are at risk of seeing even more of this vital work go to multinationals.

Thanks to some of our members with recent procurement experience for reviewing and finessing the summary we'll be sharing at that meeting, which we'll then share with you.

Bringing a summary to leave behind is a great strategy in any meeting with politicians. It gets seen by key staff and is a quiet way to make sure you're heard.

What you need to know...

Register now for our 10th anniversary conference, "Circles of Engagement," Nov. 1-2 at the Richmond campus of Kwantlen Polytechnic University. We're excited by the lineup of great thinkers, strategists and sector warriors who will be featured at the conference, and are looking forward to your dynamic presence as well!

Mental Health & Addictions Minister Judy Darcy has confirmed for the conference, and we're anticipating a number of other key political leaders as well. We'll open the conference with a keynote from [Tk'emlups te Secwepemc](#) Chief Roseanne Casimir, and close it the next day with the always thought-provoking [Vikki Reynolds](#).

In between, we'll engage you in conversations on being effective in your advocacy with government; strengthening the board chair/ED relationship; the work of United Way Lower Mainland to [convene our sector along service lines](#) (seniors, early years, etc); and much more. We're thrilled to have Board Voice founder Doug Hayman leading a conversation with BC political leaders on Day 2 on collaborating for community health, and that BC's Representative for Children and Youth Jennifer Charlesworth will join us for

dinner and remarks for a second year. We're looking forward to the words and music of [Jaelem Bhate](#), and how inner-city music projects are changing lives. Law for Non-Profits will give a workshop on [the impact of Societies Act changes](#), including new dispute mechanisms that ought to have all of us checking how our agencies "member."

Stay tuned for more as we firm up the final details of the agenda. But in the meantime, [register here](#) and tell all your friends to come.

Interesting conference facts:

- Typical attendance is pretty much an even split between board directors and senior staff of our member organizations. Perfect!
- [Charity Village](#) has come on as a sponsor for this year's event, and will give a brief talk at breakfast on Nov. 2.
- We love you, Kwantlen! Your support is helping us keep registration costs down.

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



Queries, questions, concerns, ideas:

Jody Paterson, ED
jpaterson@boardvoice.ca