



## Policy Watch

**Are you a lobbyist?** Many more of us will be saying yes to that after May 4, when provincial policy changes around which organizations are required to report monthly on their efforts to influence the BC government.

That's the date when the new [Lobbyists Transparency Regulations](#) take effect. Most non-profits to this point haven't had to register, because their lobbying activity didn't exceed 100 hours a year. That threshold is gone as of May for any organizations with six or more employees.

Organizations with fewer than six employees and less than 50 hours a year of lobbying activity will mostly be exempt. As for the rest of us, we'll now have to report monthly on our lobbying activities.

That broad term encompasses any interaction we have with MLAs, their staff, civil servants or officers/directors of Crown corporations if the reason for the engagement is to influence change in legislation, policy, contracts, or service delivery.

The Registrar's office will be summarizing coming changes at the March "virtual" board meeting of Board Voice. In the meantime, [browse the monthly summaries](#) of lobbying activity to get a sense for what the reporting looks like. It actually makes for fascinating reading.

## What you need to know...

**Jump into 2020** with some training opportunities, one being put on by the Federation of Community Social Services and the other, by the Chartered Public Accountants of BC.

Our northern members will have the opportunity to attend one of three Cultural Safety Training sessions put on by FCSSBC in April and May. Dates are April 23 in Prince George, May 13 in Terrace, and May 26 in Fort St. John. Scroll down to [the burgundy section](#) on this page to register – and remember that members of Board Voice qualify for a member rate at Fed events.

For our members in the Lower Mainland, the Chartered Professional Accountants of BC will continue their workshop series for not-for-profit organizations with a [two-day forum Feb. 10-11](#) (agenda not yet available) followed by an all-day workshop on Feb. 12 at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

The Feb. 12 workshop will review emerging areas of governance focus, including board diversity and organizational culture, as well as crisis communications and strategies for managing and preventing it. [Click here to register](#) for the Feb. 12 workshop.

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**We bumped into this great list of statistics** on the Canadian

charitable sector recently and are sharing it here in the event you need some numbers on our fabulous sector for a conversation with your MLA, community, mayor and council, or just the neighbour puzzling over what the heck you do for a living.

The figures are from 2015, so a little dated. But if anything, this "industry" with a \$135 billion payroll has only grown bigger since [Blumberg Canadian Charity Law](#) reported out on all of this in 2018.

The charitable sector leverages an astounding \$16.8 billion in receipted donations every year in Canada. Our combined payroll alone makes us bigger than industries including real estate, manufacturing, and mining and oil/gas exploration, and that's not even counting the 13 million-plus Canadians who volunteer for the charitable sector. Like our board members!

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**Board Voice will be** at the next Social Services Roundtable on Feb. 6 in Vancouver. More to come...

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



Queries, questions, concerns, ideas:

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