



Policy Watch

The Social Services Roundtable met Feb. 6 in Vancouver, and Board Voice was quick to shoot up our hand when the question came up as to who wants to sit on a working group on procurement and contracting. Yes, please!

We heard a very interesting presentation on the still-confidential Ernst & Young review of procurement and contracting within MCFD. We can't comment on it until it's public, but it certainly will give our sector a solid jumping-off point for talking about what good procurement and contracting might look like for our sector. One issue high on our agenda for those future conversations is the chronic lateness and uncertainty around year-to-year contracts across ministries, which we know causes much stress for our member organizations and their employees.

As you may have picked up in the [Feb. 18 provincial budget news](#), there will be one-time funding of several million dollars to address recruitment and retention in the community social services sector. The umbrella groups seated at the Roundtable have had input into how the money could be spent, but no decisions or clear consensus has emerged.

More information on the Roundtable [Nov. 15 forum](#) and [Terms of Reference](#) is now online.

What you need to know...

We've recently reorganized our Resources section on our website – [take a look!](#) Board Voice is always on the hunt for new resources to share with our members on board governance and overall board health, hiring senior staff, succession planning and all those other things that boards have to stay on top of.

[Imagine Canada](#), [Charity Village](#) and US-based [BoardSource](#) all have really useful governance resources available for free. If you know of other great avenues for this information, let us know and we'll share them.

And please do check out our [members-only section](#) for additional resources developed specifically for our members by Board Voice (password [uptoallofus](#)). The latest addition is the letter to key cabinet ministers that we sent out this month on procurement, and why non-profits are the gold standard for delivering social services. We're hoping our members will personalize that letter and take it to their own MLAs.

Board Voice has an annual subscription to [Zoom](#) teleconferencing software for our board's virtual monthly meetings, and we'd love to see that subscription getting more use. So if any of our members'

boards or staff ever want to make use of our "Zoom room" for a teleconference, please contact us and we'll give you directions on how to access our Zoom room.

We've now set up a shared Google calendar so that we can see who's using it when, and avoid double-booking. Up to 100 people can be in on a Zoom call, and there's no time limits. It's easy to share documents via Zoom as well if you want to present information to everyone on the call.

Good board members are the foundation for healthy and successful non-profits. But do the people you're recruiting understand their role? Is YOUR board a good match for them? This [BoardSource checklist](#) is a quick way to help them find out.

When the Union of BC Municipalities [swarms the legislature](#) for a day each year, they get noticed. How about an "Advocacy Day" for non-profits providing social care in BC?

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



Queries, questions, concerns, ideas:

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