



Policy Watch

The Community Social Services Health and Safety Council is now official, having secured \$400,000 a year in funding via WorkSafeBC. This council will be tackling the tremendous injury rates in our sector, which got everybody's attention back in 2015 when it came to light that costs of claims had been increasing 15-20 per cent annually. Over-exertion, acts of violence and falls/slips are the primary causes of injury and cost drivers in our sector, which has injury rates higher than those of forestry workers.

[Click here for the Board Voice update](#) and links to the CSSHSC handbook and final report of the very successful pilot that saw significant decreases in both claims and costs.

The Social Services Roundtable is returning to issues that were put on the back burner due to COVID-19, so working groups will soon be getting back to business on issues such as procurement, recruitment and retention and human resources. Board Voice has asked to sit at both the procurement and human resources tables as these important issues are explored.

Confused by who qualifies for BC's new [Temporary Pandemic Pay](#) providing one-time payments to frontline workers? Government tells us a complete list will be coming out soon to clarify all of that.

What you need to know...

In the season of annual general meetings, a [June 10 "Lunch and Learn" webinar](#) on how to hold a virtual AGM will be useful for many of our organizations.

The workshop is being put on by Pacific Legal Education and Outreach Society in partnership with Charity Village. PLEO now offers regular lunchtime workshops on a variety of subjects of interest to the non-profit sector – they're free, but do register ahead of time.

[Here's an April news story](#) on the government decision to temporarily lift all restrictions on holding online membership meetings for corporations and societies. And here's [a very useful FAQ from BC lawyer Anders Ourum](#) (who will also be on the PLEO webinar) on how to hold a virtual AGM.

Alas, Board Voice has made the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 conference. We had the dates booked, Oct. 23-24, but everything is just too uncertain and we're now planning for May 28-29, 2021.

But here's some happy news: We've received one-time funding from the Social Development and Poverty Reduction ministry for a series of regional one-day workshops focused on issues such as recruitment and retention,

succession planning for boards, board legal responsibilities and more. We might be able to pilot a couple of those workshops later this fall if the pandemic settles, so watch for more news soon.

Chances are your organization will have to [register as a lobbyist](#) after changes to the [Lobbyists Transparency Act](#). There's work afoot in the sector to test the law around the new rules, but Board Voice has now registered. An organization might be exempt if it lobbies less than 50 hours a year, has fewer than six employees, and doesn't represent its members' interests (you must meet all three criteria for an exemption). Board Voice likely meets the first criteria and definitely meets the second, but not the third!

The deadline to register has been extended to Sept. 15. Watch for a coming e-blast with tips on how to register. And remember: It's only lobbying when paid senior staff do it. Board members can advocate with no need to report.

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



Queries, questions, concerns, ideas:

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