



Policy Watch

This we know: The NDP will form a majority government in BC. But don't count on doing much relationship-building, minister-welcoming or Social Services 101 engagements with government until January at the earliest.

Votes cast in the Oct. 24 election confirm an NDP majority, but there are still more than 500,000 mail-in ballots that won't be counted until Nov. 6. Then comes the swearing-in of the new government and the appointment of cabinet ministers - significant for our sector given that Shane Simpson (Social Development), Judy Darcy (Mental Health and Addiction) and Carole James (Finance) have all stepped out of politics. They take with them a lot of collective knowledge about our sector, and we're going to need to identify new potential champions.

After the last election, cabinet ministers took about two months to issue their mandate letters. That puts us into mid-January or later before we have a good sense of priorities in the social ministries.

Add the usual December slow-down into the mix, and we've got a good stretch of time to hone communication and advocacy plans. Once mail-in ballots are tallied and candidates confirmed, start close to home by introducing your organization to your MLA if they don't already know you. Watch for a coming e-blast with ideas on that.

What you need to know...

We've been hearing from community social services during the pandemic about managing that all-important relationship between your organization's board and the CEO. Faced with some truly difficult decisions in the first months of COVID, boards and CEOs were under pressure as never before to adapt to wildly changed circumstances, and questions came up about whether a board that usually sticks to its governance role needs to become more operational in a crisis.

And the consensus is...stay in your wheelhouse! This [one-page infographic](#) from Board Source is a handy little tool for boards and CEOs to get the best out of each other by understanding their roles and shared responsibilities.

We're also liking this quick read, "[Mind the Gap,](#)" on the importance of establishing clear measures to help your organization know whether it's accomplishing its mission. What are the results, outcomes and specific evidence your organization needs to know that it's making a difference?

Nov. 25 is the deadline for applying for this year's round of funding from the [Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program](#).

Some 300 of these one-time grants were awarded last year; click here for the [full list of recipients](#) and their projects.

The seven funding streams for this round are crime prevention; Indigenous healing; restorative justice; gender-based violence; domestic violence; human trafficking/exploitation and sex worker safety; and child and youth advocacy centres.

Since the law took effect in 2006, BC has brought in \$73 million through the forfeiture of goods and property used for unlawful activity. About \$31 million of that has gone toward the grant program.

The one-time funding from the BC government funding our peer-led board capacity-building project is also funding a new Federation of Community Social Services initiative to provide training grants to our sector. These are early days for the FCSSBC project, but [sign up here](#) to get updates on the training fund.

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



Queries, questions, concerns, ideas:

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