



Six-month report on Board Voice Strategic Plan 2021-22

Our purpose:

To champion the health and well-being of the people of B.C. through:

- a) Advocating with respect to issues that are of concern to communities and the not-for-profit community services sector;
- b) Promoting the value of collaborative, high quality not-for-profit community-based social services;
- c) Promoting public participation through engaging not-for-profit boards in projects and activities at the community, regional and provincial levels;
- d) Promoting volunteerism and good governance by providing training and resources to volunteer boards operating in the not-for-profit community services sector.

Goal: Advocacy

To champion members' priorities, of import to good governance and healthy communities, in the context of provincial, municipal and federal consultations, legislation and regulations.

Strategic Initiatives (Priorities):

Initiatives	Activities	Timeline
<p>Through our presence on the BC Social Services Roundtable, to continue advocacy with respect to the sustainability and strength of non-profit community social benefit organizations as a gold standard for social care. This work includes an emphasis on wage equity, contracting issues, human resources, procurement methods and other barriers to maintaining a strong workforce and sustainable, well-functioning community social services sector.</p>	<p>Active presence at all Roundtable meetings and at sub working groups on procurement, compensation and human resources</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Maintain a watching brief for emerging legislation, regulations and consultations in which advocacy and/or participation of the sector is important. Liaise with members, partners and officials as relevant and necessary, and seek to participate at relevant tables of influence, online consultations, open letters, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with BC Housing re wage rates affecting recruitment and retention for housing workers in adult facilities • Consultations and advocacy on planned restructuring of BC crisis line services • Exploration of National Safety Code requirements for board directors to provide several years of driving history for NSC certification • Consultation at Jobs Minister tables re economic recovery • Consultation and dialogue with United Way and Ontario Non-Profit Network 	<p>Ongoing</p>

	to identify shared goals for better social services	
Seek and act on any opportunities to meet with decision-makers to educate, influence and support policies and processes that strengthen and sustain social care in BC and the community-based non-profit sector in its delivery of that care	<p>Zoom dialogue meetings with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attorney General David Eby (responsible for housing); • MCFD Minister Mitzi Dean; • Parliamentary Secretary Niki Sharma; • Green Party Leader Sonia Fursteneau; • Official Opposition Critic Karin Kirkpatrick; • Seniors Rep Isobel Mackenzie; • Children and Youth Rep Jennifer Charlesworth; • Provincial Health Services Authority and BC Mental Health and Substance Use Service • Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists • Canada Revenue Agency's GST team 	Ongoing
Take all opportunities to connect with other BC non-profits providing social services in order to identify and pursue our shared concerns around how best to strengthen social care in BC and the functioning of the sector as critical providers of that care, and to build the membership of Board Voice for greater influence and increased strategic capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple conversations and email engagements with our members on issues for their organization and in their communities • 4 case studies for Roundtable of Indigenous-led partnerships with our sector 	Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned “brainstorm on brains” with key members for Board Voice work on intersection of intimate partner violence (IPV) and brain injury • Letters to BC brain-injury support services highlighting link of IPV/brain injury with info for their websites • Consultations with federal Advisory Committee on Charitable Sector • Federal consultations on research directions for healthy aging 	
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Goal: Ongoing Advocacy for a Social Policy Framework for BC		
<p>To support the member organizations throughout BC as they seek to use the results of the There is a Better Way project and other Board Voice efforts since then aimed at building collaboration and connection among community-based non-profits providing social services; enhancing the well-being of our communities through better social care; and supporting boards and communities to develop approaches in their regions.</p>		
Strategic Initiatives (Priorities):		
Initiatives	Activities	Timeline
<p>Seek all opportunities to work toward and continue to highlight the need for an overarching social-care plan for BC that is strategic, sustainable, community- and outcomes-based, and non-partisan.</p>	<p>Board Voice raises this issue in every engagement with decision-makers, including July 7 Funders and Umbrella</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>Organization Roundtable with PS Niki Sharma; economic roundtable with Jobs Minister Ravi Khalon; annual report to Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services</p>	
<p>Maintain strong messaging about a plan for social care in social media posts, letters to influencers and policy makers, presentations, submissions, opinion pieces, conversations, etc</p>	<p>Constant and routine efforts in all our work</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Continue the work of identifying, highlighting and sharing examples of collaboration and new ways of doing things in our sector that demonstrate the development of new strategies for collaboration across issues and agencies at the community and regional levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 stories on our members for Community Social Services Awareness Month used as news releases by Social Development Ministry in March • 4 case studies for Roundtable on Indigenous-led initiatives • Consultations with United Way and Ontario Non-Profit Network 	
<p>Identify opportunities to present, support, engage in conversations in communities and with allies on the importance of social policy</p>	<p>Constant and routine efforts in all our work</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Goal: Member Development and Knowledge Sharing

To lead activities, and establish communication approaches, to foster capacity development, information dissemination, and networking amongst Board Voice member boards and their respective individual members.

Strategic Initiatives (Priorities):

Initiatives	Activities	Timeline
<p>Host an annual conference designed for members to inform on areas of emergent priority for the community social-benefit sector; workshops on governance and other key topics; and to provide opportunities for networking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite government officials, influencers and partners, ensuring opportunities for sharing/engaging with attendees • Promote the conference to members directly, and at meetings of other provincial organizations such as the Federation of Community Social Service Organizations, The CEO Network, First Call etc. (seek to promote in their respective communication vehicles) 	<p>No live conferences in 2020 or 2021 due to pandemic, but we have stepped up Zoom dialogues with provincial advocates and others to provide connections and learning for our members</p>	<p>Planning for May 27-28, 2022 at Kwantlen University</p>
<p>Continue weekly e-blasts to members on issues facing the sector and engagement for advocacy purposes</p>	<p>E-blasts and monthly newsletters circulated to more than 200 people on Board Voice email list</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Seek opportunities to bring together community-based non-profits in regional workshops and virtual dialogues aimed at building board capacity and functioning of the organization around issues such as recruitment and retention, board responsibilities, and local social needs.</p>	<p>Building Better Boards project will provide four peer-to-peer virtual workshops on governance, recruitment and retention, rules for charities and more. Two of four workbooks now complete</p>	<p>Materials complete by end of October 2021; piloting of workshops in November 2021</p>
<p>Seek opportunities to sit at relevant working tables, advisory bodies and on committees that keep Board Voice informed and participating in all the issues of social care and non-profit issues in BC. Those tables include:</p>	<p>We say “yes” to every request to consult, dialogue, etc if there is a clear</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Services Sector Roundtable • Leading Indigenous Social Services Training Program, advisory committee (under BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres) • Low-Barrier Employment Provincial Network • Emerging efforts to bring together BC non-profits for unified voice • One-off invitations to consult/dialogue on federal charity law; economic recovery; research priorities; and many other topics 	connection to our sector	
Monthly newsletters	Newsletters sent to more than 200 subscribers, with easy “share” option to increase the reach of our messaging	Ongoing
Maintain updated and useful posts and board governance resources on website	We are always posting new resources, and our Building Better Boards project will be a major new resource, and made in BC	Ongoing
Follow developments on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and seek opportunities to further build on this work within the community-based non-profit sector and among these organizations’ boards	Our case studies on Indigenous-led initiatives in our sector provide models for further reconciliation efforts	Ongoing

Goal - Sustainability		
To ensure attention to providing value added to members and to ensuring the financial and reputational sustainability of the organization		
Strategic Initiatives (Priorities):		
Initiatives	Activities	Timeline
Maintain adequate financial resources for existing initiatives and services by ensuring Board Voice delivers value to its members and constantly strives to recruit new members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular quality engagement with members through 	Ongoing

	<p>newsletters and e-blasts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick follow-up on any queries about membership or referrals from our members • Zoom check-ins from our membership committee with new members • Timely invoicing and follow-up 	
<p>Seek in-kind contributions from larger member agencies to assist in the achievement of Board Voice priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021-22 we secured \$21,000 from The Cridge Centre for the Family to expand our advocacy into intimate partner violence and brain injury. Depending on funding availability, support will continue at this level in 2022-23 and 2023-24 • We contract bookkeeping services at a very reasonable rate with our member Options Community Services, and receive in-kind support as well 	

<p>Seek ways to make additional revenue through annual conference by keeping expenses low and identifying sponsors or other revenue-generating activities.</p>	<p>We have not had this opportunity due to the cancellation of the last two conferences due to the pandemic, but anticipate our 2022 conference going ahead</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Ensure compliance with federal and provincial legislation, regulations and reporting requirements</p>	<p>Timely upkeep and filing of all necessary reporting. Long-time Board Voice treasurer Craig East retired in 2020, but continues to support the board and executive director in maintaining all finance-related responsibilities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Seek all opportunities to present or speak with non-members about the benefits of joining Board Voice</p>	<p>Quick response and follow-up to all membership queries; maintain a high profile around sector advocacy to attract new members; a “yes” to any request to present to a non-profit board or be part of a dialogue</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Conduct Annual General Meeting, including election of Board Members</p>	<p>Virtual AGM to be held Sept. 27, 2021</p>	
<p>Hold annual Board Voice Board planning session, ideally in person</p>	<p>This is dependent on sufficient funds for flights and accommodation for our board directors to attend, and no pandemic restrictions. A session has not happened since 2018. However, our</p>	<p>Annually, typically in March</p>

	board meets monthly via Zoom for our board meetings, and increased opportunities for Zoom dialogues with political leaders, advocates and subject-matter experts (e.g. CRA on GST laws) is increasing connection among our board members	
Try again for charitable status, which will allow Board Voice to apply for one-time foundation funds for efforts such as helping boards build capacity, supporting members to travel to the Lower Mainland for our conference, and furthering our goals around social policy planning through the ability to do occasional regional workshops.	Revised Purpose and bylaws going to membership at Sept 27, 2021 AGM, setting the stage for a second application in 2021-22 fiscal year.	Late 2021 or early 2022
Ensure a diverse and skilled board through well-planned and strategic recruitment	We are anticipating 5 new board members from diverse BC communities joining our board at 2021 AGM	Ongoing