



**Richmond Community Services
Advisory Committee**

To: Mayor Brodie and Councillors
 From: Colin Dring and Lisa Whittaker, Co-Chairs, RCSAC
 CC: Cathy Carlile, Lesley Sherlock, John Foster
 Date: April 27, 2014
 Re: Social Policy Framework

Issue	Potential impact	Agency or individuals affected	Suggested action
<p>Social Policy Framework in BC</p> <p>Board Voice, 26 social services agencies and a number of municipalities are calling on the BC government to develop a social policy framework in British Columbia.</p> <p>For information about the Board Voice see excerpt from their website attached.</p> <p>The City of Duncan will be introducing a resolution at fall UBCM calling on Province of BC to develop a social policy framework for the Province.</p> <p>An example of a Provincial Social Policy Framework can be seen in the Province of Alberta http://socialpolicyframework.alberta.ca/</p>	<p>Government policy would be integrated with respect to decision making to address larger social issues such as poverty, health determinants, early childhood, healthy communities, seniors care and support etc. In addition the impact of economic decisions would be considered relative to social impact for communities.</p>	<p>Policy initiative at provincial level could have positive impact on all citizens of British Columbia</p>	<p>That Richmond City Council support the resolution going forward to the UBCM, which has been created by City of Duncan and supported by City of Nelson. Work is underway across different communities in BC to have strong support for this resolution prior to the UBCM conference in fall 2014.</p> <p>The RCSAC offers to meet with Richmond City Council to review and discuss the Social Policy Framework along with a Board Member from Board Voice.</p> <p>For information - documents related to this initiative can be found at: http://boardvoice.ca/public/initiatives/social-policy-framework/</p>



About the Board Voice - Excerpt from Board Voice website

Visit website for more information:

<http://boardvoice.ca/public/about/vision-mission-and-principles/>

Board Voice - Vision, Mission and Principles

Vision

A clear and effective voice for volunteer community-based boards supporting high quality social services and strong vibrant communities.

Mission Statement

Provincial champions of healthy communities who promote the value of collaborative high quality community-based social services through: advising, influencing and counselling governments concerning the aspirations and concerns of the sector; strengthening governance capacity and empowering boards; promoting collaborative cross-sectoral thinking, innovation and planning at both the community and provincial levels; and promoting community social services to the general public as critical to the social fabric of our communities.

Principles

Respectful – We show respect for those with whom we work by demonstrating courtesy, honesty, integrity and fairness.

Collaborative - We envision an integrated system of community-based services that is driven by the needs of the people who utilize our services. We are committed to collaborative engagement with our board members across agencies and within communities to create a service delivery system that is integrated and makes the best use of available resources.

Transparent – We engage our agency board members and other stakeholders in an open process, with transparent purpose, goals, expectations and accountabilities, expectations and constraints.

Responsive – We respect, and respond to, advice received from our fellow board members and other stakeholders. Wherever appropriate, we modify our plans and actions to reflect their advice.

Timely and Appropriate – We engage our fellow board members and other stakeholders early and often in the planning process, allowing sufficient time for meaningful dialogue, consultation and plan modifications. We utilize levels and methods of engagement that are appropriate to the purpose of engagement.

Inclusive and Balanced – We engage our fellow board members and other stakeholders who have a stake in, or will be represented by, our actions. We respect the diversity represented by the people working in our agencies and the people who receive our services. We balance the participation and influence of stakeholder groups.

Accessible – We provide clear, accessible and comprehensive information in order to facilitate involvement of our fellow board members and other stakeholders to assist us with addressing issues and making decisions.

Accountable – We monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our engagement with our fellow board members and other stakeholders and are accountable for our actions and for the appropriate utilization of resources.

Innovative – We seek innovative ways to improve our communications and plans. We are committed to continuous learning.



CITY OF DUNCAN

January 22, 2014

0230-20 AVICC

Via E-mail: avicc@ubcm.ca

AVICC

Local Government House
525 Government Street
Victoria, BC V8W 0A8

Attn: Ms. Iris Hesketh-Boles, Executive Coordinator

Dear Ms. Hesketh-Boles:

RE: AVICC Resolution – Social Policy Framework

Please be advised that Council, at its January 20, 2014 regular meeting, unanimously passed the following resolution for consideration at the 2014 AVICC Conference:

Social Policy Framework

WHEREAS every British Columbian depends on social services, health care, justice and education services;

AND WHEREAS our communities are partners in the delivery of many of these services and are facing increasingly complex social challenges requiring coordination between multiple social ministries of government, municipalities and the community agencies and organizations that deliver services to the public;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the municipal governments of British Columbia call upon the Premier to begin a consultation with British Columbians to initiate the development of a Social Policy Framework that will set out key policy directions, values, priorities, roles and expectations, and guide the creation of public policy to meet our social needs now and into the future.

As noted in the submission requirements, a hard copy of this letter will follow by mail and additional background information to accompany the resolution.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at (250) 746-6126.

Sincerely

Karen Burley,
Director of Corporate Services

/kb

PO BOX 820 200 Craig Street, Duncan, BC V9L 3Y2

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Social Policy Presentation Outline

Background

The Board Voice Society of B.C. is seeking support for the development of a social policy framework for the province. We ask that municipalities support a resolution to the provincial government to initiate a province-wide consultation leading to the development of such a framework.

- Board Voice represents more than 70 boards of community social service agencies across the province. It exists to advise governments on issues of concern to community benefit organizations, to improve governance and to bring boards together locally and provincially in the desire to create strong, vibrant communities. We believe a social policy framework will improve the lives of all BCers. www.boardvoice.ca
- The community social services sector: Helps people: find employment, find housing, deal with addictions, escape abuse; Provides services for sexually abused children, seniors needing in home support, persons with developmental and other disabilities, families and children in the protection system, and for children and adults living on the street; Creates child care and early learning services, safe houses, detox programs, language programs; transition services, skills training, immigrant programs.
- Other provinces, most recently Alberta <http://socialpolicyframework.alberta.ca/files/documents/ahs-nonannotatedfmwrk-webfinal.pdf>, and some municipalities have created social policy frameworks.

What's the Issue to be Resolved?

- Our population is growing and becoming more diverse. Housing, jobs, education, health, public spaces, recreation facilities are all affected. Issues are getting more complex.
- There is an increasing gap between the rich and the poor in our communities. We know social and health problems are connected to growing inequalities.
- Currently in B.C. there is no overarching framework to guide the work of social ministries and related community organizations in the province - no all-embracing vision, goals, and accountabilities, which could assist in bringing new approaches to difficult to solve issues.
- While collaboration is recognized as critically important to ensure the best and most efficient use of resources, there are few mechanisms either at a provincial or community level to bring this about.
- Broad ministry plans, which drive change, are often not well linked to other plans and most ministries continue to operate largely in silos. Horizontal leadership is not focused.
- At a community level, there are few planning mechanisms that bring organizations together within their sector or across sector boundaries and those that do exist are often ad hoc.
- Few resources exist to support this type of work within agency or municipal budgets.
- Linkages between social policies and economic policies are difficult to discern, although upon reflection, are obvious and need to be understood and managed.

What is a social policy framework?

Social policy is about the things that affect the quality of day-to-day life - the values, strategies, plans, and actions that affect people most directly — individually and in their relationships and networks with their friends, families, and communities. Policy frameworks are tools that can guide decision making, set future direction, identify important connections, and support the alignment of policies and practices both inside and outside an organization.

Why are we coming to you?

Municipal governments see first hand the day-to-day results of systemic failure on their neighbours and communities. A broad consultation process to generate a social policy framework is critical and local governments through the BC Healthy Communities initiative are already involved in conversations and actions. The community social service sector delivers programs and services through local agencies. As a result, there is an alliance between local government and agencies. We need to come together to build the capacities of local government and agencies to come to terms with the very real social problems facing citizens by asking the Premier to undertake the development of a social policy framework for British Columbia.