

Social Services Sector **Roundtable**: Terms of Reference

Purpose

Social services organizations, in partnership with government and other public sector agencies, provide an important array of services that people count on everyday. There is mutual recognition that a strong and sustainable social services sector is essential for ensuring quality services and better outcomes for British Columbians.

The purpose of the Social Services Sector Roundtable (SSSRT) is to provide a forum for Ministers and senior executives in government and social services sector representatives to: maintain good relations through on-going communications; discuss matters of importance within the sector and address issues in a coordinated and collaborative way.

Objectives

The SSSRT will:

- Provide a forum to discuss matters of importance within the social services sector and propose actions to respond to issues identified
- Provide the social services sector with a formal channel for on-going communications and engagement with senior levels of government to foster and ensure a collaborative and respectful relationship
- Provide opportunities to ensure more coordinated and strategic approaches for the delivery of services and to build a shared vision for the future of social services in British Columbia

Membership

The SSSRT will be comprised of Ministers and senior executives from government ministries and agencies and from representatives of the social services sector. It is expected that members are authorized to speak on behalf of and can represent the interests of their respective organizations.

Membership is set out in Appendix A and will be updated to reflect changes in the composition of members over time, approved by SSSRT members.

Guests can attend SSSRT meetings to share information or be informed by meeting agenda items as needed. When members suggest guest attendees to the SSSRT Chair and Secretariat, invitations can be sent by the SSSRT Secretariat to guests, which will ensure that guests receive meeting invitations, materials and are appropriately welcomed into SSSRT meetings.

The Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits are the SSSRT Sponsors, supported by the Deputy Minister as the Chair of SSSRT and the SSSRT Secretariat.



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Key principles

- Commitment to open, respectful and timely communications as well as active participation
- Commitment to constructive and collaborative discussions and problem-solving—taking into account the shared interest to develop solutions that will lead to better services and outcomes for British Columbians
- Respect for the diversity of people, interests, organizations and communities, including Indigenous communities, as represented by members of the SSSRT
- Respect for the confidentiality of issues that may be brought to the SSSRT for discussion
- Proactively strive for action orientated outcomes

Roles and responsibilities

- The Chair of the SSSRT is responsible for setting meeting agendas on behalf of government, seeking advice and input from SSSRT members on developing the agenda items
- As a part of developing the agenda, the SSSRT Secretariat reaches out to the Reference Group Chair and Co-Chair for any suggested items or discussion points to be added to the SSSRT agenda
- Members commit to attending meetings and only to send delegates when it is required
- The SSSRT can establish sub-committees and working groups as needed and the associated governance and scope
- The SSSRT Reference Group members are included in Appendix B
- A Secretariat for the SSSRT will: manage meeting invitations and communications with SSSRT members and guests, document discussions and prepare minutes; inventory issues impacting the social services sector as identified by members and any actions proposed for implementation in the short, medium and longer term to address those issues

Support and administration

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction will provide secretariat support for the SSSRT.

October 1, 2019 (Updated June 4, 2025)

Agreed/approved

Updated annually.



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Appendix A

Social Services Sector Roundtable membership

- Minister Sheila Malcolmson (Chair)
- Parliamentary Secretary Community Development and Non-Profits—Amshen (Joan Phillip)
- Deputy Ministry of Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (Chair)

Organizations represented

- Aboriginal Housing Management Association
- BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
- BC Association of Community Health Centres
- BC Association of Service Providers for Employability & Career Training
- BC CEO Network
- BC General Employees' Union
- BC Housing
- BC Non-Profit Housing Association
- Board Voice Society of BC
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- Community Living BC
- Community Social Services Employers Association of BC
- Ending Violence Association of BC
- Federation of Community Social Services of BC
- Ministry of Attorney General
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs
- Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Provincial Association of Residential and Community Agencies (PARCA)
- Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat



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Appendix B

Social Services Sector reference group

Representatives	Organizations
Tim Agg	BoardVoice
Brandon Arnett	Nexus Community Support Society
Stacy Ashton	Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC
Jill Atkey	BC Non-Profit Housing Association
Heather Treleaven	BC Association of Community Response Networks
Zhara Esmail	Vantage Point
Amy FitzGerald	BC Society of Transition Houses
Michelle Fortin	Metis Nation
Brenda Gillette	BCCEO—Social Service Leadership Network
Denise Watson	BC Association of Childhood Development Centres
Maria Howard	Family Services of Greater Vancouver
Evin Jones	Pacific Aids Network
Ninu Kang	Ending Violence Association of BC
John Kay	Realize Strategies
Candice Henriques	PARCA
Anne-Marie Koeppen	Volunteer BC
Mark Medgyesi	John Howard Society of BC
Tiffany Melias	Options for Sexual Health BC
Jonathan Morris	Canadian Mental Health Association BC Division
Janet Morris-Reade	ASPECT BC
Anne-Marie Koeppen	Volunteer BC
Julie Robertson, Celeste Howard	BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC)
Amy Mullis	Federation of Community Social Services BC
Caleigh Garland	Federation of Community Social Services BC
Julia Staub-French	Family Services of the North Shore
Lina Thompson	Police Victim Services of BC
Collette Trudeau	Metis Nation BC
Karla Verschoor	Inclusion BC



Appendix C

Sector organizations' summary bios

The [BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres \(BCAAFC\)](#) is the provincial umbrella organization for 25 Indigenous-led Friendship Centres across British Columbia. These Centres deliver more than 600 culturally relevant programs annually, supporting over one million client interactions and serving the 80% of Indigenous people in B.C. who live off-reserve. BCAAFC acts as both the advocacy and administrative hub for these Centres and is part of a national network of more than 110 Friendship Centres across Canada. As a provincial leader in Indigenous policy, reconciliation and community well-being, BCAAFC works alongside all levels of government to ensure that urban Indigenous voices are heard and prioritized. Through youth empowerment, social justice advocacy and culturally grounded service delivery, BCAAFC strengthens the Friendship Centre Movement across the province.

Since its inception in 1982, The [Federation of Community Social Services of BC](#) has been a steadfast advocate for community social services. Through its unwavering dedication to advocacy, support and member-driven initiatives, the Federation continues to champion the cause of the most vulnerable and strengthen the fabric of community social services in British Columbia. Members of the Federation are not just part of an organization; they are part of a movement towards a more inclusive and supportive society.

[Provincial Association of Residential and Community Agencies \(PARCA\)](#) is a provincial network of community social service agencies that promotes, supports and strengthens justice-related services for youth and adults in B.C. This focus requires significant involvement with Justice Departments at both the federal and provincial levels. By advising government, advocating for effective and humane justice, supporting the interests of service providers and facilitating collaboration, PARCA enhances service quality and fosters innovation, research and public education across the sector.

More to come...

