



March 14, 2024

Re: British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative

Dear BCSPI member,

We are writing with an important update about the future of the British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative (BCSPI).

Since 2019, BCSPI has grown from six to over 40 members, trained almost 1,000 staff, created almost \$1 billion in public sector spending with added social value, and supported its members to implement social procurement in over 1,000 purchasing projects.

In 2021, BCSPI received one-time, 3-year funding injection from the BC Government to expand its membership across the province. This funding covered 65% of BCSPI's operating budget and is now coming to an end, despite best-efforts to secure ongoing support from the Province. As a result, BCSPI will transition into a fee-for-service model as of April 1, 2024, where the initiative is supported solely by annual membership fees with services administered by BCSPI service delivery partner Buy Social Canada.

You will receive an invoice in April to renew your membership for 2024, as per usual. If your organization joined in the past 6 months, your current fees will cover your membership for the first half of 2024 and your April 2024 invoice will be for 50% of the annual fee.

Whilst the transition will require a 20% increase in member fees to maintain service levels, you will still receive BCSPI's comprehensive current membership benefits. Access to core training, templates and tools, member learning events, the Community of Practice, member resource library, and impact measurement tools will continue as normal. However, customized training and consulting services will transition to an on-demand basis at \$150 per hour.

In order to reflect the change in delivery mode, the governance structure for BCSPI will also shift from having a steering committee to an executive committee. The executive committee will meet four times per year and be comprised of representatives from the different member types: municipal governments, regional districts, institutional purchasers, and Crown Corporations. Those interested in joining the executive committee are invited to self-nominate. Please contact Em Chapman at em@buysocialcanada.com if you are interested in joining the Executive Committee.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible and innovative work BCSPi members are doing across the province, and the value of the shared learning created by this incredible initiative. We would also like to thank the delivery partners: Scale Collaborative, Buy Social Canada, and the Vancouver Island Construction Association, for their support, enthusiasm, and integrity that has turned the vision of BCSPi into a sturdy network for systemic change.

We are confident that this new model will continue to meet the needs of members in supporting their social and sustainable procurement goals and objectives, and we are excited to welcome you to the next phase of BCSPi as we support each other to create lasting impact in our province together.

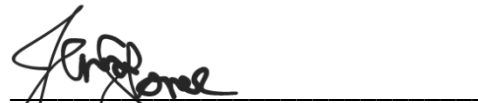
We will be speaking about the highlights and learnings from the first five years of BCSPi at a webinar April 11 from 2-3:30pm "Lessons Learned in Supporting Local Governments to Adopt Social Procurement." Please [register here](#) to join us.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Sincerely,



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