



# BoardVoice

Leadership. Collaboration. Community.

## The Board Voice Society of B.C.

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July 14, 2010

To: all Board Chairs and Executive Directors

Re: Membership in Board Voice

The Board Voice Society of B.C. incorporated in November 2009 and continues to grow as agencies hear about its goals and objectives and about what it has been doing. To those of you who have already joined – thank you. We appreciate your desire to support a new organization dedicated to strengthening communities through a commitment to ensuring that people have the services they need. **If you haven't joined as yet, please give consideration to doing so now!**

**On October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Voice will hold its annual conference and AGM in Vancouver. All boards are welcome to attend!** You won't want to miss the exciting line-up of speakers and governance workshops, so **save the dates!**

We believe that by organizing the volunteers who govern the community social services sector we can create a voice which will be heard by politicians and the public in a way that others simply can't do. This is important as we seek to generate a better understanding of the importance of these services to the health and well being of our communities. We know that having community services available when people need them is critical to offsetting much higher downstream costs. We know that having community members involved with decision-making in their own communities is an important capacity in ensuring the health and resiliency of communities. We also believe that community social services are good for business; helping to create safe, healthy communities which attract talent and where businesses can thrive!

To do this work involves three things: commitment, membership and resources. Without commitment, nothing will be achieved. Already, Board Voice has established itself as an important voice in the province. We've been in the media, delivered talks to numerous organizations, including the Government/Non-Profit Initiative and had meetings with politicians and senior bureaucrats. As well, meetings of board members have been held in several communities and more are planned around the province. These meetings have been very useful in helping to establish new relationships across agencies and have fostered discussions on local issues.

Our membership has been growing steadily, but we want to double the membership by March 31<sup>st</sup>, so we have a long way to go. Membership provides credibility,

strategic direction and resources. And without resources, it is difficult to sustain a provincial organization. **So we need you to help us make a difference!**

Please find attached a two page overview of Board Voice and a **Membership Application form**. You'll be interested to note that fees for the smaller agencies have been substantially reduced. If you are feeling that your agency just can't afford the full fee this year, talk to us. We may be able to assist. The important thing is to be a part of this new venture.

If you haven't already done so, you might want to take a look at the material on the Board Voice website at [www.boardvoice.ca](http://www.boardvoice.ca) . There you will find our latest Newsletter *Boards Onboard* and various other documents which will help you to better understand what Board Voice is hoping to accomplish.

Over the past two years, a number of important services have been lost in our communities. We believe that these decisions have been short sighted and will inevitably cost our society more. British Columbia will continue to face a difficult financial situation over the next few years and it will be imperative that community services remain strong, especially now when they are most needed.

Please give consideration to joining Board Voice now and be a part of this new and exciting initiative.

Sincerely,

Anthony Ostler  
Chair,  
Board Voice Society of B.C.