



February 1, 2023

Hon. Anne Kang
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Room 028 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kang,

We are writing to request a meeting with you to provide an update on the British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative (BCSPI) and to explore options for additional financial support to extend the program and ensure municipal governments across BC can continue to access these valuable services.

BCSPI is a flagship program that directly meets the BC Government's mandates of creating a sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy, building vibrant and healthy communities, mitigating climate change, and supporting inclusive prosperity. Additionally, the policies and practices being created through participation in the program ensure that the value of provincial and federal stimulus funding is being maximized (such as local government grants or investment in training for industries facing transition).

As a result of the initial funding support received in March 2021 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, BCSPI successfully expanded from a Vancouver-Island based pilot project to a province-wide program:

- BCSPI members have included social value in over **\$400 million** of public sector spending. A significant return on investment from the Ministry's initial funding of \$500,000
- Membership has now expanded to **35+ members** that include municipal governments, institutional purchasers, and crown corporations
- Over **600 individuals** have been trained, adding significant capacity to municipal staff resources
- Social and sustainable value considerations have now been incorporated in almost **500 purchasing projects** from goods and services purchasing to construction and infrastructure.

During these unprecedented times, we continue to see a strong need for BCSPI as a valuable and affordable program that municipal governments across BC can join to learn how to make their existing financial resources go further to help mitigate the numerous challenges faced by their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenna Stoner", written over a horizontal line.

Jenna Stoner
Councillor, District of Squamish
Co-Chair, BCSPI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vickey Brown", written over a horizontal line.

Vickey Brown
Mayor, Village of Cumberland
Co-Chair, BCSPI

Cc: Hon. David Eby, Premier

Hon. Lisa Beare, Minister of Citizens' Services

Hon. Brenda Bailey, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Proposal: Continuation of BCSPI Service Delivery

This proposal is to build upon the success of the British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative (BCSPI), by continuing the expansion and delivery of the model across British Columbia.

BCSPI is an initiative that was designed for and by local governments. It began with six municipalities on Vancouver Island who looked for ways to collaborate to share the effort, the learnings, and the cost of advancing social procurement across their communities. BCSPI now works with more than 35 organizations across the province including governments, purchasers, and crown corporations.

Since its inception, BCSPI has continued to be recognized as a key resource for municipalities across BC and an international model for adapting and implementing social procurement across a wide geographic region, including rural, remote, and smaller municipalities as well as in urban areas.

All of BC's 162 municipalities and additional institutional purchasers (school districts, libraries, colleges, hospitals, etc.) can access capacity building, resources, training, and hands-on expert support to align their purchasing to achieve social and environmental outcomes.

The Initiative is governed by a Steering Committee made up of both elected officials and staff, with services delivered by a partnership of social procurement content and process experts.

In the current model, there is a sliding scale membership fee to keep the initiative accessible to communities of all sizes. Local governments fees are based on population and for institutional purchasers/non-local government members, fees are calculated based on annual spend. Membership fees currently contribute to approximately 40% of the project delivery cost.

BCSPI is seeking funding to continue supporting local governments and institutions with the implementation of social and sustainable procurement best practices across BC, by providing:

- Full-service benefits to members
- Development and delivery of both standardized and adapted learning content, training, and topical webinars that respond to emerging opportunities and issues
- Ongoing development of best practices tools, templates, and resources
- Delivery of bespoke coaching and consulting support for members on a project-by-project basis, including specific attention to the needs of small, rural, and remote communities
- Ongoing communities of practice and peer mentorship
- Standardized vendor outreach and engagement
- Research, evaluation, and impact measurement aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Development of communications materials including impact reports and case studies
- Ongoing outreach and education to BC local governments
- Ongoing outreach and education to institutional purchasers such as crown corporations, post-secondaries, school boards and hospitals