



British Columbia
Social Procurement Initiative

BCSPI: Principles of Membership

British Columbia Communities Social Procurement Initiative (BCSPI) is a multi-year public initiative *by* local governments *for* local governments, with participation from other institutional purchasers and vendors/suppliers.

Purpose

To support local government and institutions to implement social procurement best practices to build community well-being and resilience.

Vision

To improve the health of our communities and the strength of our economies by changing the culture of public sector procurement.

Mission

We work with local governments and institutions in British Columbia to build capacity through training, consulting, resources and support to implement purchasing that achieves community goals.

BCSPI is a public, community-driven initiative that is governed by a Steering Committee comprised of local government members, with services delivered by contractors. BC SPI is not a separate entity but rather a community project and shared practice.

These Membership Principles aim to capture and communicate the spirit and intention of the initiative, and outline the reciprocal and community approach between members, and with service providers.

Core Guiding Principle is 'Contribution'

Members are both receiving services as well as contributing to an innovative initiative and best practices of social procurement. The principles that underline a spirit of contribution are:

- Collectively working towards a best practice
- Sharing learning amongst service providers and members
- Measuring impact
- Engaging in good faith

Member Contribution Practices

A commitment to best practice, shared learning and collective impact is demonstrated (whenever possible) through:

- Participation in steering committee meetings
- Engaging with service delivery team on social procurement policy development
- Engaging with service delivery team on initial RFX with social procurement criteria

- Informing BCSPI Coordinator when posting a social value RFx
- Engaging with the collaborative tools and processes that have been developed to help with standardization and vendor outreach/engagement: i.e. RFI, vendor directory and impact measurement framework
- Striving towards implementing the best practices that the membership is collectively creating
- Being open about lessons learned and respecting the confidentiality of individuals sharing these lessons learned
- Not sharing BCSPI-developed tools and resources with non-members, without prior written approval

Membership Benefits

BCSPI membership provides access to expert advice, tools and resources that can help organizations to implement social procurement best practices:

- Professional development and training
- Templates, resources and examples
- Expert consultation, coaching and review
- Networking, community engagement and community of practice
- Library of past webinars and online social procurement knowledge hub
- Vendor/supplier outreach tools and templates
- Impact measurement and evaluation tools
- Communications and engagement resources