



# BC Community of Practice

Tuesday July 19, 2022  
11:00 am – 12:00 pm PT

**Vibrant Communities**  
T A M A R A C K I N S T I T U T E

ENDING POVERTY  
DEEPENING COMMUNITY  
BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES  
CLIMATE TRANSITIONS

# Gratitude & Acknowledgement

We begin this workshop by acknowledging that we are meeting on Indigenous land. As settlers, we are grateful for the opportunity to meet and we thank all the generations of Indigenous peoples who have taken care of this land.

As settlers, this recognition of the contributions and historic importance of Indigenous peoples must be clearly and overtly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities.

*Please use the chat box to introduce yourself, which lands you are calling in from,  
and what questions you are bringing to today's call*



# Today's Call

Agenda	Purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome, Acknowledgement &amp; Introductions</li><li>• Kristi Fairholm-Mader – Purchasing Power for Vibrant Communities</li><li>• Questions/discussion</li><li>• Breakout brainstorming – 1. Other local issues SP can help address? 2. First steps</li><li>• Report back</li><li>• Closing announcements</li></ul>	<p>The purpose of the BC CoP is for poverty reduction practitioners to discuss challenges, seek solutions, and share successes related to poverty reduction work in British Columbia.</p>



# BCSPI

British Columbia  
Social Procurement Initiative

## **Purchasing Power** **The Potential of Social Procurement**

[www.bcspi.ca](http://www.bcspi.ca)

# PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING

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The public sector collectively spends billions of dollars through procurement:

- \$200B annually with approx. 80% taking place at local & regional level
- Represents 13% of Cdn GDP





# WHAT IS SOCIAL PROCUREMENT?

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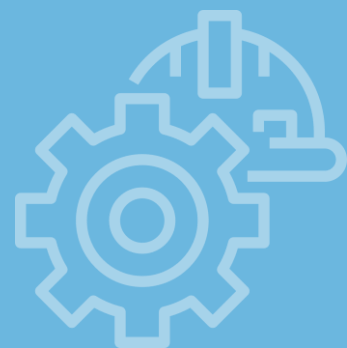
Social Procurement leverages additional social, environmental & ethical value from existing purchasing



# WHY SOCIAL PROCUREMENT?

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- Our communities are facing complex challenges
- Every purchase has an economic, environmental and social impact
- Our purchasing can become a tool for building healthy and resilient communities





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Social Procurement is not just buying local, it is buying with purpose. Buying with a goal of addressing the unique needs of the community







# BCSPI

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British Columbia  
Social Procurement Initiative

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Helping local governments across  
British Columbia to turn their  
procurement dollars into achievable  
and measurable community benefits

[www.bcspi.ca](http://www.bcspi.ca)





# BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- 
- Led by and responsive to the needs of small/local governments
  - Steering committee decides on direction and next steps



# BCSPI PROVIDES CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT



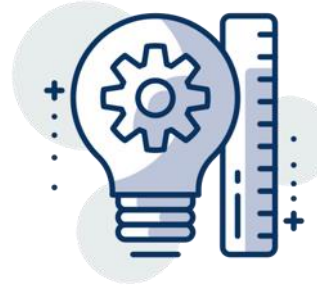
Training



Consultation  
& Support



Best Practice  
Examples



Impact  
Measurement



Supplier  
Outreach



Community  
Of Practice



Knowledge  
Hub



Online  
Resource  
Library



Templates  
& Guides



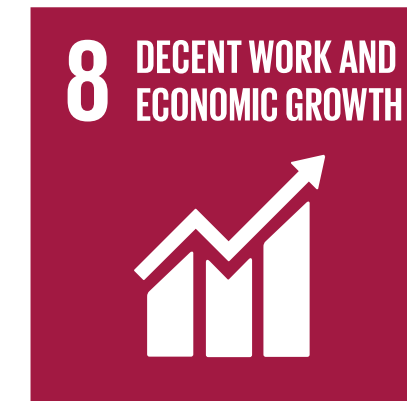
Case  
Studies

# BCSPI MEMBERS





# MEASURING IMPACT TOGETHER





**FIRST 3 SESSIONS:  
OCT & NOV  
2021**

**FINAL 3 SESSIONS:  
JAN & FEB  
2022**

# Purchasing Power

Free 6-part speaker series

Session topics include:

- Engage Indigenous businesses
- Support your local economy
- Increase food security
- Support diversity and inclusion
- Address climate change

BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Social Procurement**

INITIATIVE





Attend for free!

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**THURSDAY  
OCT 21, 2021  
12PM-1PM**

# Purchasing Power

How can social procurement engage Indigenous businesses?



**Judy Kitts**

First Nations Engagement  
Manager | Greater Victoria  
Harbour Authority



**Ron Arcos**

Business Development  
Officer | NEDC (Nuu-chah-  
nulth Economic  
Development Corporation)

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# KEY LESSONS

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- Relationship is key
- Build on what exists
- Extend RFP timelines
- Recognize capacity needs
- Set targets

## Two concrete actions to take now

1: Try and meet with a local Indigenous business. Make a goal to meet one or two a month and connect. – Judy Kitts

2: Reach out to your local Aboriginal capital corporation. They are right across Canada. From there referrals can be made. – Ron Arcos



Attend for free!

**WEDNESDAY  
NOV 10, 2021  
12PM-1PM**

# Purchasing Power

**How can social procurement support my local economy?**



**Amy Robinson**

Founder | LOCO BC



**Alisha Masongsong**

Community Economic  
Development Planner |  
City of Vancouver

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# KEY LESSONS

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- Local economies matter
- Build on what exists
- Work collaboratively- internally and externally
- Start small and test
- Listen and learn

## Two concrete actions to take now

1: "Find your social procurement champions and work with them to start piloting." - Alisha Masongsong

2: "Reach out to the local business community, you'll be surprised by the amazing suppliers who exist." - Amy Robinson



Attend for free!

**WEDNESDAY  
NOV 24, 2021  
12PM-1PM**

# Purchasing Power

**How can social procurement increase food security?**



**Heather O'Hara**

Executive Director | BC  
Farmers Markets



**Jennifer Reynolds**

Co-Executive Director |  
Nourish

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# KEY LESSONS

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- Food security is essential
- Food = social = environmental
- Intentional purchasing power is powerful
- What is the true cost?
- Get creative

## Two concrete actions to take now

1: See who the suppliers are in your community, forge relationships with them, and find ways to bring their products into your institution. Feature producers in your area to staff or community, for example through lunch and learns, or CSA drop-offs. - Jennifer Reynolds

2: Change your menus to consider seasonality and how to incorporate local produce. Talk to farmers, make a call and find out what's possible. - Heather O'Hara



Attend for free!

**TUESDAY  
JAN 11, 2021  
12PM-1PM**

# Purchasing Power

**How can social procurement support diversity and inclusion?**



**Nerissa Allen**

Co-Founder & President |  
Black Business Association  
of BC (BBABC)



**Dugan Selkirk**

Business Advisor for the  
Entrepreneurs with Disabilities  
Program | Community Futures BC

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# KEY LESSONS

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- The stats aren't good
- Build on what exists, including relationships
- Impact multiplies
- Small spends are a ladder
- Ask about supply chains
- Economic multiplier

## Two concrete actions to take now

1: Business owners: reach out for help, and look online for supports for the type of business you do or for the community you belong to. - Dugan Selkirk

2: If you don't know where to start or you need help in that journey we (BBABC) can support networking amongst our business community and facilitate conversations between yourself and vendors. - Nerissa Allen



Attend for free!

**THURSDAY  
FEB 3, 2022  
12PM-1PM**

# Purchasing Power

**How can social procurement address climate change?**



**Karen Elliott**

Mayor | District of Squamish



**Yamila Franco**

Impact-driven Entrepreneur

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# KEY LESSONS

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- Policy institutionalizes change
- Measurement matters
- Think in lifecycles
- Certifications can help
- Climate = social

## Two concrete actions to take now

1: "Start shifting your thinking away from the bottom line. Then, go read your procurement policy and think about its power to do more." - Mayor Karen Elliott

2: "Action starts with culture. Try to shift your internal culture, talk with coworkers, share your knowledge, and work together to brainstorm next steps." - Yamila Franco



**WHERE ELSE CAN  
PURCHASING MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE TO  
LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES?**



# BCSPI

British Columbia  
Social Procurement Initiative

# THANK YOU

## For more information about BCSPI

[www.bcspi.ca](http://www.bcspi.ca)

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Project Coordinator

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Services delivered in partnership by:





# Next BC CoP

**Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Intersection of climate transitions and communities ending poverty**

[jill@tamarackcommunity.ca](mailto:jill@tamarackcommunity.ca)

