

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

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Throughout the month of March we are shining a spotlight on the vital role community social services play in our lives and in our society as a whole.

They make our communities stronger, healthier and more stable.

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES.

 write a letter to your community newspaper

 contact your MLA

 post our campaign materials in your workplace, library or community centre

 get more information at [www.communitysocialservicesmatter.ca](http://www.communitysocialservicesmatter.ca)

## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES. CARING COMMUNITIES.

Community social services are based on the belief that people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds are valuable and contributing members of society.

During difficult periods, or when a crisis arises, it's important that communities are able to respond by providing supports, services, or the skills people need to deal with life's challenges.

Community social services are about creating and maintaining supportive, healthy, stable, and caring communities.

### A MESSAGE FROM :

Federation of Community Social Services of BC

BC Society of Transition Houses

Ending Violence Association of BC

Association of Neighbourhood Houses BC

United Community Services Cooperative

Developmental Disabilities Association

BC Government and Service Employees' Union

Canadian Union of Public Employees

Hospital Employees' Union

Health Sciences Association of BC

Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training

Early Childhood Educators of BC

Coalition of Child Care Advocates Of BC

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**CAN YOU IMAGINE**  
communities where all  
people get the support they  
need, when they need it?

**WE CAN.**

**COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES  
AWARENESS MONTH**



Everyday across B.C., in large cities and small towns, frontline community social services workers and agencies are helping to build safe, healthy and caring communities for all of us.

We know just how much these services matter. THEY MAKE ALL OF US STRONGER.

# Supportive services. Caring communities.

## WHAT WE DO.

**SUPPORT** children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities to fully participate in their communities through housing, employment support, recreation and community engagement.

**HELP** end violence in our communities by supporting women, youth and children fleeing abuse, and other victims of crime, by providing safe environments, counselling and advocacy.

**PROVIDE** kids with a great start through early care and learning, integrated and supported child care programs and before-and-after school care.

**REACH OUT** to the homeless, people with mental illness and at-risk and street-involved youth by providing shelter, supported housing, employment and life skills training and counselling.

**ASSIST** immigrant families to settle into new communities by helping people get the housing, employment, language training and other support services they may need.

**WORK WITH** adults and youth in conflict with the law to prevent crime, through community engagement and restorative justice programs, housing, employment support and counselling.

**STRENGTHEN** families through family development counseling, parenting support and intervention when needed.

**SUPPORT** Aboriginal communities to empower families, youth and children.

**IMPROVE** lives through therapeutic supports such as infant development, occupational and speech therapies for children with special needs.

**CONNECT** people facing job loss, life skills and decision-making challenges to training and successful employment.

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## FACING THE CHALLENGES.

Over the years, B.C. has developed a wide network of supportive community-based social services.

But the last ten years have seen cuts to services, program closures, growing wait lists and chronic underfunding. Inequality in our province has deepened and families are suffering.

Agencies are stretched to the breaking point. And frontline workers are now dealing with unsustainable workloads as they try to meet

growing demands for services with insufficient resources.

In addition, low wages and deteriorating working conditions are creating health and safety issues and a serious recruitment and retention crisis throughout the sector.

Without adequate funding, agencies are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain a stable, professional workforce – the key to quality support and continuity of care.

