

BC SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK

TERMS OF REFERENCE

DATE: March 16, 2021, revised June 22, 2022

A DEFINITION

1. Social enterprises are businesses that sell products or services in the marketplace to achieve social, cultural, or environmental purposes. They reinvest their profits to maximize their social mission and are democratically controlled.
2. They may be operated by non-profit organizations, charitable organizations, co-operatives, or other social-purpose businesses that ascribe to the principles outlined in the first section.

B TERMS OF REFERENCE

The purpose of the BC Social Enterprise Network is to provide opportunities for independent organizations operating or supporting social enterprises to work together on mutual interests.

The Network works together to achieve:

1. A more enabling public policy environment for social enterprises to achieve their missions, contribute community benefits, and enhance the well being of their participants.
2. Mutual learning and development amongst practitioners and their organizations.
3. Increase growth of the social enterprise sector in British Columbia by fostering greater public awareness of, and market demand for, social enterprise products and services.
4. Increased corporate, institutional, and government procurement opportunities.
5. Action research and evaluation on outcomes and effective practices of social enterprises.
6. Collaboration in broader socio-economic consultations and dialogues.
7. Facilitating the engagement of social enterprise employees, participants, and other stakeholders, in representing their own views and interests.

The Network meets remotely as and when members agree to the most convenient date and time.

Membership is open to all organizations in BC (and guests) that subscribe to the Network's Definition, Purpose and Terms of Reference.

The Network is hosted by the [BC Centre for Social Enterprise](#) based on operating agreements that may from time to time be mutually agreed upon.

C BACKGROUND

1. Social enterprises have become a growing sector of the BC, Canadian, and global economy, purposefully integrating social goals with economic activity.
2. In BC, research shows that the sector now earns more than \$500 million annually and provides 13,000 paid jobs (<https://www.sauder.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/2019-07/Social%20Venture%20Labour%20Market%20Study%202015.pdf>) with a growth rate of 35% over 5 years ending in 2015.
3. Social enterprises play a major role in employment development in BC, creating jobs and training opportunities for those with barriers to employment.
4. They are active in all key sectors of the economy such as: Agriculture and food production; fisheries; renewable energy; recycling and waste recovery; information technology; education; health care; financial services; sustainable manufacturing; and retail. (<http://sess.ca/wp-content/uploads/Report-2014-BC.pdf>)
5. Social enterprises play a major role in community economic development in urban and rural communities, Indigenous, and northern settings.
6. The Network has emerged as a means for collaboration in strengthening the social enterprise sector in BC.