



## What can you do?

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.

### You can help by:

- writing a letter to your community paper
- contacting your MLA
- posting this brochure in your work place or passing it on to a friend



## What do community social services workers do?

- work in residences and day programs for people with developmental disabilities
- support families and youth in need
- provide quality child care
- support victims of violence
- assist those with substance abuse issues
- provide services for children with special needs
- counsel and support immigrant families
- provide services to aboriginal people
- offer a range of services for women
- support people dealing with physical and emotional abuse
- work with those who are facing job loss, life skill and decision-making problems
- support people with emotional and mental health challenges

...and more.

LET YOUR MLA KNOW HOW IMPORTANT COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES ARE TO YOU.

Please visit our website at [www.communitysocialservicesmatter.ca](http://www.communitysocialservicesmatter.ca)



# COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES AWARENESS MONTH

Can you imagine

communities where all people, especially our most vulnerable, can get the support they need, when they need it?

**WE CAN.**

Every day, community social services workers are helping people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds deal with life's challenges.

We know just how much these services matter. They make all of us stronger.

# Community social services matter

OVER THE YEARS, British Columbia has developed a wide network of community-based social services.

They include everything from child care to employment and housing support for people with developmental disabilities, to specialized services for immigrant families and support for women escaping abusive relationships.

They provide a wide range of assistance to people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. They help make sure people don't fall through the cracks when they have a special need or when they are facing a crisis in their lives.

They help make our communities stronger, healthier and more stable. And they're available to any one of us should we need them.

Community social services are based on the belief that every person is a valuable member of the community, and that all people deserve the support and skills they need to surmount challenges they may face throughout their lives.

## So what's the problem?

Community social services are rarely in the public eye – although the problems they help solve are often in the news. In recent times, these services have suffered from cutbacks and inadequate funding. In some areas, resources are stretched to the breaking point. In others, entire programs are closing. Waiting lists have grown at an alarming rate. And many workers are now dealing with unsustainable workloads.

In addition, low wages and deteriorating working conditions are creating 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 service.

