

# Change Network

## *Food Security Cohort*



### Program overview

We believe not-for-profit organizations are uniquely suited to identify and advance public policy changes to address systemic inequities. **Change Network is a pilot project designed to provide the skills and tools required to create and advocate for a common advocacy goal, alongside a cohort of like-minded organizations.** This program is ideal for not-for-profit organisations in British Columbia who seek to improve their advocacy skills and reach. Our first cohort will focus on **Food Security**.

Participants will learn the structure, skills, and tactics of a successful advocacy campaign, while they are provided the resources and a system of support to work collectively and make meaningful change.

**Vantage Point invites not-for-profit leaders working to eliminate food insecurity to provide an Expression of Interest to join the first cohort.**

### Who should submit an Expression of Interest

- Organizations currently at work to eliminate food insecurity
- Organizations with an interest to expand their advocacy capacity and which currently do not have the in-house capacity to engage in public awareness or policy work
- Leaders who want to build strong relationships with other organizations focused on similar work to multiply their efforts and tap into a network that can work together to amplify their voice and reach

### How to submit an Expression of Interest

Please submit a one-page outline to [jellis@thevantagepoint.ca](mailto:jellis@thevantagepoint.ca) which includes:

- Organization name and contact information
- Your organisation's work in food security in B.C.
- How your staff will benefit from training and support to enhance their advocacy skills
- An advocacy goal your organisation may be interested in advancing
- How the Change Network Cohort program will support your organisation's mission

### Ready to create transformational social change?

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### Discover effective strategies to engage in public policy advocacy

Effectively reaching the next level of advocacy for the people you serve starts here.

Not-for-profit organizations are uniquely suited to identify and advance public policy changes to address systemic inequities. Learn the skills and tools required to create and advocate for a common policy goal, alongside a cohort of like-minded leaders.

### How does it work?

The Vantage Point Change Network is designed to provide a cohort of parallel not-for-profit leaders with the structure, skills, resources, and a system of support necessary to collectively make a meaningful public policy change.

It will use an experiential learning format that brings together a network of not-for-profit organizations working together to identify and change on piece of public policy. There will be five distinct stages to the program:



#### 1. Identify “Change Goal”

The cohort will receive support to find common ground and identify a shared goal related to policy, regulation, legislation, or government practice that will strengthen the ability for not-for-profits to achieve their mission.



#### 2. Map Stakeholders and Conduct Research

Participants will identify key stakeholders and decision-makers related to their shared goal. Through a structured program of research and consultation, they will work together to understand and articulate the interests of different stakeholders. In addition, participants will research primary (examples from other jurisdictions) and secondary information (articles, reports, submission etc.) to design the best possible policy intervention to pursue.



#### 3. Articulate a Theory of Change and Develop Strategy

During this stage participants will learn about different strategies for creating effective policy change including awareness campaigns, influencer engagement, government submissions, political engagement, and community empowerment. They will then

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develop a strategy with the most promising chances to create the change identified during the first stage.



#### **4. Implement the Strategy**

Participants will implement the advocacy strategy developed during the third stage. As participants begin implementing their strategy, they will be able to test their theory of change and adjust as required.



#### **5. Evaluation**

Through regular debriefing and other evaluation techniques, participants will track their success and the impact of their actions throughout the program.

## **What you will learn**

**Organizations and leaders can expect to learn how to:**

- Conduct a public dialogue process to identify common interests
- Understand differences between public policy, practice, regulation, and legislation
- Create a comprehensive list of stakeholders and decision-makers in policy areas
- Develop a theory of change
- Assess whether the theory of change for a given tactic is appropriately framed
- Revise the change strategy based on learned lessons

## **Program benefits**

**Participants in this program will have the opportunity to:**

- Develop relationships with like-minded organizations
- Work towards their organizational missions in a highly collaborative environment
- Stay connected to this network to continue to drive forward positive change

## **Ready to create transformational policy changes?**

We'd love to hear from you.

**Cherie Payne**

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