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From: Cheryl Ziola <executivedirector@bcacg.com>

Reply-To: Cheryl Ziola <executivedirector@bcacg.com>

Subject: our phone discussion this morning on Direct Access update

To: derek.sturko@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Susan Marsden <smarsden@citytel.net>

Hello Derek and thanks for calling me this morning to advise of the Direct Access funding news. However, BCACG does remain very disappointed that the government is cutting gaming funds to charities to try and reduce the deficit.

That said, we want to ensure we have a clear understanding of what you've told us so that we may advise our members accordingly on our website, along with a posting of your bulletin dated August 27th.09.

Please see major points of our discussion and ensuing questions to be addressed:

1. Change in funding priorities from environment, sports etc. to low-income, public safety and some arts/culture groups. Who made this decision and what was the criteria? Our members will want to know.
2. Removal of 3-year funding to one year only. This means that groups who were promised 3 years of funding must now re-apply. Is this not a breach of contract? Also, what is the "re-application criteria" and process?
3. Arts/Culture funding to come through BC Arts Council for this fiscal year. Why the switch from GPEB to another entity to distribute gaming funds? Will this be the new norm to have charities/ non-profits applying to other Ministries and organizations for "gaming" funds?
4. You mentioned the Sports category closes Monday and that GPEB will process what they have on file. Those that would need to "reapply" you mentioned would have their archived materials considered rather than expecting them to get an application in by Monday. Just wanted to confirm this before we post it on our website. And why was this not the process with arts and culture?
5. You would consider putting a link to the BCACG website on the GPEB website so those who receive or want gaming funding have some resources, news and helpful information to access.
6. Hundreds of letters advising Arts/Culture/Sports Direct Access funding applicants on the status of the remaining funding went out from GPEB this week.

In preparation for your presentation at the Symposium, we suggest that you consider incorporating an update on gaming funding in general (including bingo affiliates, raffles etc.) so that charities and non-profits are not getting the information by news release and you can establish a meaningful dialogue and two-way exchange on how funding policies are impacting our members. As you know, many rely on this gaming funding to leverage support from other donors. This will hit them hard at a time when foundation funds have collapsed, corporate donations have dried up and individual donors are reluctant to spend their meager discretionary dollars on philanthropy. Charities/organization will also face steep increases due to the HST in July 2010.

We hope your Ministry will take all of this into consideration when developing policy and consult with the BCACG and its members to minimize anxiety and the effects of last-minute funding cuts. Some organizations have already told us they would have made different spending decisions had they known these cuts to committed funds were coming.

Regards,
Cheryl