

# Speaking notes – presentations to municipal councils

## Why Community Social Services Awareness Month?

Thank you for hearing from us today.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I am a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of municipality) and I work at \_\_\_\_\_ (name of agency).

I am part of an important campaign to promote the value of Community Social Services in our community.

(Note: If the council you are addressing has supported the resolution in past years – it will be important to acknowledge this and thank them for their past support of community social services)

Before I talk about our request here today, I wanted to spend a little time dealing with what community social services are. I have a questionnaire that I am going to give each of you to keep. It is for your personal reflection only and asks you to think about how our many services have touched your life, or the lives of those you know, and the importance of these services to the quality of life in our community.

We know that every community and many families and individuals in B.C. rely on the many services we provide, including:

- staffing group homes for people with developmental disabilities
- supporting families and youth in need
- providing child care, including care for special needs children
- supporting victims of violence
- assisting those with substance abuse issues
- offering a range of services for women
- counselling and supporting immigrant families
- supporting those dealing with physical or emotional abuse
- working with those encountering job loss, life skill and decision-making problems
- supporting those with emotional and mental health problems
- assisting First Nations families

and more.....



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You may be familiar with some of the agencies in our community that provide these kinds of services, including (\_\_\_\_\_name of your service/employer and other agencies or employers in the community whose workers are part of the campaign).

The Community Social Services Matter campaign is a broad province-wide effort aimed at raising awareness of the vital role these services play in our communities.

Workers like me are leading our campaign. We are working with agencies, families and community partners to shine a light on community social services, and build support among community leaders, policy makers and the general public.

Despite their importance to individuals, families and communities, the community social services we provide and we all rely on, are often misunderstood and marginalized, or invisible. Sometimes this is because these services relate to the times or areas of life where we face problems and challenges. It is also partly due to the fact that the important role of these services is not often recognized.

Our goal is to work with you and others in our community to ensure these services are more visible and better understood. We hope that you will join us. We are seeking your support in designating March as Community Social Services Awareness month in this community.

We believe that it is time to focus on the value of community social services for all citizens, and especially for those who are some of the most vulnerable members in our society.

In asking this council to designate March as Community Social Services Awareness or month we have three major goals:

- to increase awareness about the value of community social services to the citizens of our community;
- to change and expand perceptions about the people who use these services and their importance to our community, and;
- to build greater public support for the services we provide and the work that we do.

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

By designating the month of March as **Community Social Services Awareness Month** you will help raise the profile of these vital services in our community. We have provided a model resolution for your consideration. Thank you for your time.



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