



Our Ref: 391295

June 29, 2020

Andrea Davis
Community Social Services Bargaining Association
4911 Canada Way,
Burnaby, BC
V5G 3W3

Dear Andrea Davis:

Thank you for your letter sent on March 5, 2020, to the Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance expressing your concerns regarding fair working conditions and pay for the Community Social Services Sector. Your letter has been sent to the Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat for response.

As you will know, government has established programs that recognize the frontline workers providing critical public services in health, social services and corrections to those most vulnerable during the pandemic, including those represented by the Community Social Services Bargaining Association.

On March 20, 2020, the Ministry of Children and Families informed the sector that they would provide incremental funding to support contracted service providers experiencing increased costs due to staff shortages, increased overtime and/or increased demand as a result of COVID-19.

As well, government announced the Temporary Pandemic Pay program, which is a cost shared program with the federal government to provide a \$4/hr temporary pay top-up for eligible workers in the community social service sector. To qualify, workers, including casual and on-call workers, must have been working straight-time hours anytime during the 16-week period that began on March 15th, 2020. They must have been working in an [eligible sector, workplace and role](#) delivering in-person, front-line care in health, social services and corrections that is listed at www.gov.bc.ca/pandemicpay.

Additionally, government initiated the BC Emergency Benefit for Workers. This program will provide a one-time \$1,000 payment to those whose ability to work has been affected due to COVID-19. Residents of B.C. who receive the federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) are eligible, including those whose employment insurance benefits have expired and qualify for CERB.

Ministry of Finance	Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat	Mailing Address: PO Box 9400 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9V1	Location Address: 210 – 880 Douglas St Victoria BC V8W 2B7 778.698.8549
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Please visit the link below for more information on Provincial and Federal benefits programs.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/financial-benefits#individuals>

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Chris Rathbone
A/President & CEO
Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat

pc: Honourable Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children & Family Development
Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education
Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills & Training
Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
Honourable Michelle Mungall, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness
Gentil Mateus, CEO, Community Social Services Employers' Association
Aleasha Wegner, Christian Labour Association of Canada
Caroline Chuba, Christian Labour Association of Canada
Sheryl Burns, Christian Labour Association of Canada
Andrea Duncan, British Columbia Government Employees' Union
Pamela Pye, British Columbia Government Employees' Union
Barbara Lemky, Hospital Employees' Union
Christina Lloyd-Jones, Hospital Employees' Union
John Hardie, Hospital Employees' Union
Carolin Bleich, British Columbia Nurses' Union
William Hwang, British Columbia Nurses' Union
Cheryl Colborne, Canadian Union of Public Employees
Michael Reed, Canadian Union of Public Employees
Colin Brehaut, Health Sciences Association of British Columbia
Norah Miner, Health Sciences Association of British Columbia
Glen MacInnes, United Food and Commercial Workers
Marty Gibbons, United Steelworks Union
Shelley Moore, Construction & Specialized Workers' Union