



BC Government to fight against Equal Pay in court

An NDP government fighting workers? Over equal pay?

September 16, 2021

For Immediate Release

On Monday, September 20th, lawyers for BC's provincial government will argue **against** equal pay for equal work in the social service sector.

The Labour Relations Board (LRB) will hear arguments from 11 non-union Social Services Workers and their employers. The issue is a wage gap that government created between these workers and their unionized counterparts. Until 2019, government provided the same pay increases to all workers doing the same jobs, whether they belonged to a union or not.

The social service workforce is **80% women** and over half are IBPOC. Many are struggling with low pay and the high cost of living. The government funds these services through contracts and is devaluing the work 17,000 people by paying them less.

The Equal Pay BC Coalition is made up of 26 community agencies that provide services to vulnerable people in BC. Ernie Baatz, the Executive Director of Spectrum Society and organizer of the Coalition said "Our workers deserve to be treated fairly and with respect by the Provincial Government. Paying them less and offering them a union registration card is coercive and does not respect their right to choose to belong to a union".

The direct impact of unequal pay on workers like Nicki Gabriel, a Community Support Worker at Namaste Transition to Community Society in Victoria, is real. **Nicki cares for vulnerable adults with severe disabilities.** She doesn't understand why she's paid less for the same work as her union counterparts.

"It's not an easy job sometimes," Nicki says. "We do so much. Equal pay would mean that people recognize that I work just as hard as anybody else."

We have prepared briefings, worker stories and backgrounders for media to download from our website.

- [EqualPayBC.ca](#)
- [Briefing for Government](#)
- [Backgrounder](#)
- [Worker Stories](#)

We are able to support reporting with interviews and content, including a [video](#) highlighting Nicki's work. A long-read [story](#) is also available.

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Equal Pay BC

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