STATEMENT OF ENDORSEMENT:

B.C.'s health care cleaning and food service workers deserve living wages and safe working conditions.

a **Living Wage** Campaign

Because work should lift you out of poverty, not keep you there.

We, the undersigned, understand that:

- Since the introduction of *Bill 29* in 2002, health authorities have contracted out more and more public services, like hospital cleaning and dietary work, to large foreign corporations; and
- These corporate contracts cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, but pay poverty wages to workers whose jobs are critical to patient health and safety, and are some of the dirtiest and most dangerous in health care.

We further recognize that the rapid deterioration of wages and working conditions – caused by contracting out – hurts workers, families, communities, patients and the health care system as a whole, with consequences that include:

- Family disruption as parents are forced to take two or more jobs to meet basic needs;
- Personal hardships such as poor living conditions, inadequate nutrition and emotional stress;
- Recruitment and retention problems that lead to short staffing and insufficient training;
- Compromised patient and worker safety;
- Fragmented health care teams that prevent nursing staff from communicating directly with support staff;
- Reductions in local economic and community activity, as workers' buying power is diminished and their free time is eroded; and
- The exploitation of new immigrants and other vulnerable populations who make up the majority of contracted-out workers in this sector.

For these reasons, we request that health authorities fulfill their mandate to promote strong and healthy communities by ensuring that their cleaning and food service workers have access to living wages and safe working conditions because living wages mean:

- Quality patient care
- Healthy families
- Sustainable economies
- Strong communities

Please check if you would like to receive campaign updates

First Name	Last Name	Mailing Address	Email	Signature	✓

Please complete and return this form to Olive Dempsey by either : fax to 604-739-1519 • email to odempsey@heu.org • or mail to Hospital Employees' Union, 5000 North Fraser Way, Burnaby, B.C., V5J 5M3

Personal information will be used solely in support of the Living Wage Campaign. It will not be disclosed to any other party.

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION CUPE

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