



## WHY GET INVOLVED?

### *A long & proud tradition*

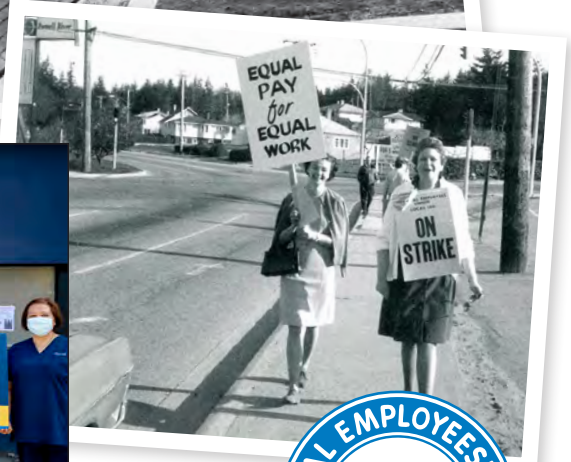
Before the Hospital Employees' Union was formed, workers at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) worked in sweatshop conditions.

Facing hostile governments, it took eight years for 390 workers at VGH to form our union in 1944. That's why our logo today still features a drawing of the original hospital building to commemorate the birthplace of HEU.

Since then, we've achieved many victories for HEU members – and public health care services. And while we are proud of our history – what's most impressive is that our shared history would not be possible if thousands of hospital workers hadn't given their time to build our union.

Member involvement is our most valuable resource. It connects you to a long and proud tradition of activism that's been the backbone of HEU since we were first established in 1944.

And it's the key to our collective strength.





## YOUR LOCAL NEEDS YOU!

Every day rank-and-file members dedicate their time and effort to build their locals, champion causes close to their hearts and help make HEU a stronger union. Why? Because it's how we collectively stand up for everyday working people and their families.

Your HEU local is where coworkers come together to solve problems, coordinate activities, communicate and advance members' interests. By participating with your local, you can help and support your coworkers, connect with others across the province and country and build your skills and knowledge.

There are many ways to get involved – you can find a way to participate that will work for you and your life. Interested? Attend a local meeting or talk to one of your local executives to find out more.

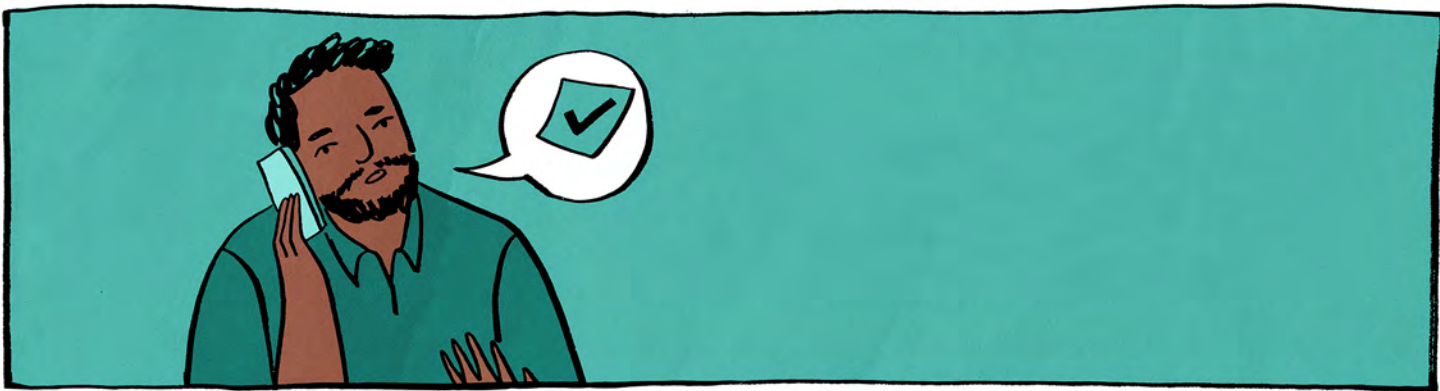
When workers unite, they make things better for everyone. That's why we stand together for fairness, equity and safe workplaces.



## WHAT DOES MY LOCAL DO?

All members belong to the provincial union through their locals. Together, members at the local level elect their executives on an annual basis. They decide what support they need to resolve their issues and how to use the local's financial resources. Shop stewards – the union's front-line advocates – are either appointed by the local executive or elected by the local membership.





## WHY VOTE FOR A HEALTH CARE-FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT?

When we vote, we help choose a government that will shape our future for the next four years. Depending on who is elected, our province or country can be moved forward or sent backward.

So HEU advocates for members to get involved, volunteer for worker-friendly candidates, and vote for politicians who want to protect and expand public health care.

Because when it comes to health care, we need to elect people who listen to and support workers and make decisions that benefit our health care system.

### We know all too well what happens without a government that cares

Sixteen years of BC Liberal rule took a severe toll on the things that matter most to HEU members – health care, social services, decent jobs, education, the environment and much more.

In 2001, Gordon Campbell's newly-elected government's first orders of business to slash taxes for the wealthy and corporations. It was a reckless and costly mistake that created a revenue loss of \$3 billion a year and set the stage for a flood of cuts to the programs and public services British Columbians rely on.

### When a government cares about workers

Since forming government in 2017, the BCNDP is doing the work to undo the legacy of the BC Liberals and is building a better province for everyone.

In 2018, the government repealed Bills 29 and 94. The repeal acknowledges the value of workers and their rights and addresses the failure of the BC Liberals' privatization agenda.

While there is more to do – this government respects and listens to workers.



# A government that cares about workers is worth voting for and supporting.

## *Life under the BC Liberals 2001 - 2017*

- 71 hospital cutback, closed or downgraded
- 267 public schools closed
- 91% of long-term care homes fail to meet staffing guidelines
- Nearly 10,000 health care workers fired
- Low wages and substandard benefits for privatized workers
- Health care workers excluded from successorship and other provisions of the Labour Code
- Collective agreement ripped up, and wages were rolled back 15%
- Contract-flipping on the rise in long-term care
- Workers rights diminished
- Random worksite inspections eliminated
- Self-help kits introduced
- Fees hiked on everything from MSP to BC Hydro to car insurance
- *Bill 29* - led to the mass firing of thousands of health care workers, a highly racialized group that was more than 85 per cent female
- *Bill 94* – allowed health services to be privatized faster and deeper than any other province in Canada

## *Changes made by BC NDP since 2017*

- Repealed Bills 29 & 94
- Granted health care workers full access to Labour Code
- Pandemic pay for frontline health workers
- Free tuition for former youth in care
- Creating housing for the most vulnerable
- Updated Labour Code
- Lowered vehicle insurance rates
- Improved Employment Standards Act
- Building a universal childcare system
- Adopted UNDRIP legislation
- Hiring 7000 new health care workers
- Building & upgrading hospitals
- Eliminated MSP premiums
- Restored successorship rights
- Levelled up seniors' care wages
- Developing Anti-Racism Act
- Raised the minimum wage to \$15.20



# Political Action Matters

Health care is publicly funded - so who makes up the government matters. HEU members benefit by taking political action.



HEU members have great reasons to take political action. Unless members share concerns with political decision-makers, businesses and corporations are the only voices at the table.

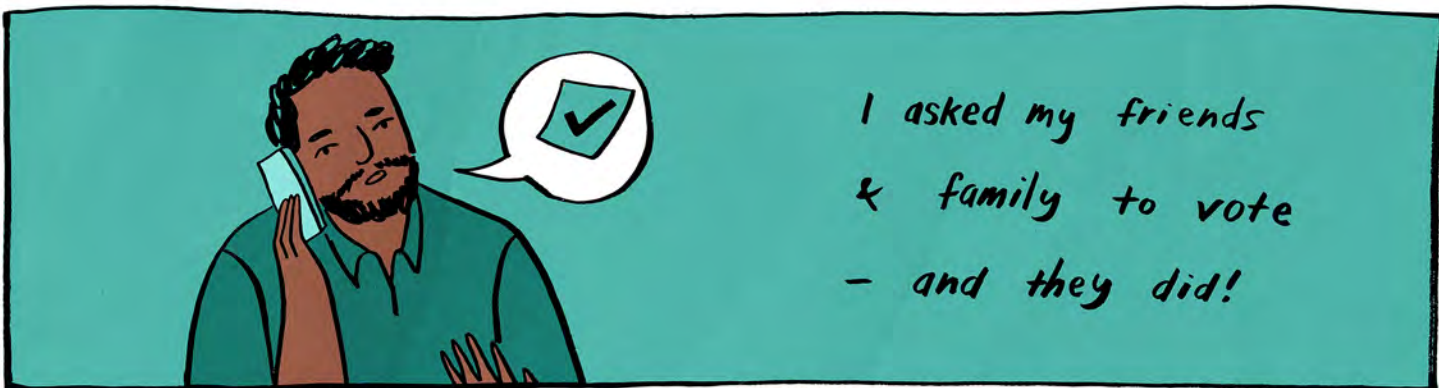


I met with my local politician. At first I was nervous...



But then I realized, I am the expert on my job. My MLA needed to hear from me.

By meeting with our MLAs & MPs, volunteering with political parties, and voting for candidates who stand up for public health care, we're taking political action.



Political decisions affect our working lives and are made by OUR elected politicians. And remember: a worker-friendly government that believes in a strong publicly-funded health care system can make a big difference.

Brought to you by HEU's political action committee

