



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

PROVINCIAL OFFICE:

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October 28, 2020

By Email

Gil McGowan, President
Alberta Federation of Labour
#300, 10408 - 124 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1R5

Dear Brother Gil,

Re: Kenney's attack on health care workers

The Hospital Employees' Union, representing more than 50,000 health care workers in British Columbia, stands in solidarity with your health care members who are facing down a draconian attack on their livelihoods, their rights and on the critical services they deliver to the public every single day.

In B.C., our members faced an almost identical attack from the Gordon Campbell Liberal government nearly 20 years ago. We're still picking up the pieces today.

Nearly 10,000 front-line health care workers – mostly hospital housekeeping, food services and laundry staff – were fired in just a few short years to clear the way for contracting out to multinational corporations.

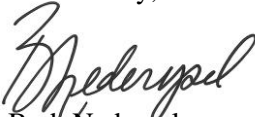
Nearly 90 per cent of those so-called “non-clinical” workers were women, and highly racialized as compared to the rest of the workforce. They were invited to reapply for their jobs at half the wages.

This must sound familiar to hospital workers in Alberta today.

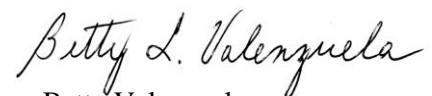
Workers have one choice in these situations -- to fight for the important public services and decent jobs that make our communities strong and safe. Alberta workers made it clear on Monday that this is a fight well worth engaging.

The AFL and its health care affiliates have a strong ally in HEU as you take action to oppose Kenney's reckless attacks on workers and health care.

In solidarity,


Barb Nderpel
President


Mike Old
Secretary-Business Manager (Acting)


Betty Valenzuela
Financial Secretary

c.c. Rory Gill, President, CUPE Alberta
Guy Smith, President, AUPE
Michael Parker, President, HSAA
Heather Smith, President, UNA