

Community social services workers ratify agreement

The three-year agreement includes wage increases and significant money for low wage redress

Community social services workers have voted 85.7 per cent in favour of ratifying a new collective agreement that provides significant compensation increases for members in this sector, while meeting the government mandate of improving the services British Columbians count on.

Community Living workers ratified the tentative agreement by 82.3 per cent. General Services ratified by 95.8 per cent. Indigenous Services (previously Aboriginal Services) ratified by 50.9 per cent. The weighted average ratification vote for all three sub-sectors was 85.7 per cent.

“The CSS sector has suffered for too long from serious underfunding,” says HEU secretary-business manager Jennifer Whiteside, “but this agreement is a solid step forward in beginning to address the low wages that have plagued this sector over the last 16 years.”

Highlights of the General Services and Community Living subsector agreements include:

- General wage increases of 2 per cent in each year, plus significant money for low wage redress to address recruitment and retention issues in the sector
- Strong improvements to occupational health and safety, including a Provincial Occupational Health and Safety Council
- The restoration of statutory holiday pay for part-time and casual employees
- A non-provincially funded child care commitment from government to look at fair compensation for early childhood educators
- An improved process to assist the parties in better labour relations
- Enhancements to health and welfare benefit plans to start closing the gap with the health sector
- The renewal of the labour adjustment education fund and funding for health and safety and violence prevention training.

The new collective agreement will be in effect from April 1, 2019 until March 31, 2022.

Please share this update with your co-workers. Members are also encouraged to keep their email information up to date.

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