

September 5, 2025

The Honourable David Eby
Premier of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Eby,

On behalf of the 28,000 workers represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1518 (UFCW 1518) across British Columbia, I write to express our unwavering solidarity with the close to 36,000 public service workers—members of the BC General Employees' Union (BCGEU) and the Professional Employees Association (PEA)—who are currently on strike.

Support workers are seeking a contract that acknowledges the unrelenting affordability crisis working families throughout our province have endured for years. This is the same affordability crisis at the center of your government's mandate and a reality you have repeatedly highlighted.

UFCW 1518 represents thousands of workers in the community health sector who are also currently in contract negotiations with the BC Government. Our members in the healthcare sector belong to the Community Bargaining Association (CBA) and Community Social Services Bargaining Association (CSSBA), and they share many of the same concerns and challenges as their BCGEU and PEA colleagues who have taken the difficult decision to withdraw their labour.

As CBA and CSSBA enter critical monetary discussions with government in the coming weeks, UFCW 1518 expects to see wage proposals that reflect the urgent reality these essential workers face. Our members want to see meaningful progress towards wage parity with other care aides who work at facilities—a matter of fundamental fairness that has persisted for far too long.

Premier Eby, your government came to power with promises to make life more affordable for British Columbians and to strengthen our public services. Fair wages are essential to retaining the skilled workers who keep these services strong.

The workers represented by BCGEU, PEA, and UFCW 1518 are the very people who deliver these essential services that British Columbians depend on every day and that you have vowed to improve. These are the same workers who were deemed essential during the pandemic and who will be called upon again during future emergencies.

What these workers are asking for are wages that reflect the real cost of living in British Columbia and recognition of the essential nature of their work. They are asking for the ability to afford housing, groceries, and basic necessities in the communities they serve.

UFCW 1518 remains committed to working constructively at the bargaining table to negotiate agreements that acknowledge the crisis you've described. We urge you to give your negotiators improved mandates that reflect your government's stated priorities and the reality working people in British Columbia have faced for years.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Johnson
President
UFCW 1518

cc: Paul Finch, BCGEU
Bargaining Committee, UFCW
Sussanne Skindmore, BC Federation of Labour
Melissa Moroz, PEA