



WHERE DO VULNERABLE FAMILIES FALL ON B.C. GOVERNMENT'S LIST OF PRIORITIES? **LAST.**

Since coming to power in 2001, the B.C. Liberal government has launched an unrelenting assault on community social services, the workers who provide them, and the vulnerable families who rely on them most.

Community social services workers are the heart and soul of our communities. They help and support the most vulnerable members of our communities, including youth at risk, women, people with disabilities, immigrants, First Nations, and many others.

By taking millions out of the sector, the B.C. Liberals have stretched resources to the breaking point. By cutting programs and closing group homes they have allowed wait lists to grow at an alarming rate. And by showing complete disrespect for community social services workers, they have made it more difficult for these workers to provide the quality public services that vulnerable families rely on.

Community social services cannot survive without a commitment from government to recognize the vital role these services – and the workers who provide them – play in our communities.

Workers need respect and compensation that reflects their contribution to society. Instead, the B.C. Liberal government has turned its back on the sector:

- Since 2004, community social services workers have given up more than \$300 million, money that has not been restored;
- Community social service workers are the lowest paid in the entire public sector. After almost a decade of declining wages, many are forced to leave their profession or to take on a second job because they find it impossible to make ends meet and do their jobs;
- In most classifications, the starting wages have actually been reduced. In 2002, the starting wage for a residential care worker was C\$16.83; now it's C\$15.54;
- Over the same decade since 2002, the cost of living has increased by 18.1 per cent;
- A one-per-cent wage increase for the entire CSS sector would cost government C\$4.5 million.



Frontline community social services workers across British Columbia are on strike for more secure and stable community social services, and a fair and reasonable wage for the workers who have been doing more with less for years.

When women flee abusive relationships along with their frightened children, they turn to community social services.

When families need support for their developmentally disabled children, they turn to community social services.

When the unemployed feel hopeless and need to find a job, they turn to community social services.

When teens need assistance to get off the street, they turn to community social services.

When infants are born with disabilities or serious health problems, their parents turn to community social services.

When new immigrants need help to resettle in their new country, they turn to community social services.

...and many more.

**BC's
Community
Social Services Workers**



PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT:

- Visit www.cssfairdeal.ca/action and tell the government to stop putting the squeeze on community social services and the workers who provide them
- Call the premier, at 250-387-1715. Tell Christy Clark to support a fair deal for community social services workers – **The Heart and Soul** of our Communities.
- Talk to your MLA, and remind him or her how community social services workers help people deal with life's challenges every day.

Community social services workers

The Heart and Soul of our Communities.

