

Vancouver & District Labour Council



The Vancouver and District Labour Council is calling for urgent action to ensure fairness for all frontline workers, whether union or non-union, and health and safety for all workers and residents.

Fairness for Frontline Workers

- Worker inclusion in all decision-making bodies and processes
- Fair wages, and elimination of waiting periods for new employees to qualify for benefits
- Action to address the frontline worker staffing crisis in the DTES
- Allocation of necessary additional resources to provide services to those in need
- Implementation of presumptive WCB coverage for frontline workers who contract COVID-19
- Paid sick leave at 100% of regular pay, and paid time off for any period of quarantine or self-isolation

Health and Safety for Workers and Residents

- Implementation of clear guidelines indicating which services are to remain open during this crisis, and how to ensure social distancing in practice
- Provision of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to all front-line workers, with necessary training and guidelines for its use, and input from unions in the decision-making process for what PPE is appropriate
- A safe and consistent supply of food to services in the DTES
- Provision of additional stock of sanitizing cleaning supplies, and funding of additional working hours to complete necessary cleaning at worksites and throughout the community
- Introduction of supports for workers' mental health concerns considering the increased stress and trauma that the COVID-19 pandemic has added to this already difficult and often dangerous work
- An emergency interjurisdictional meeting to address housing the homeless during COVID-19 crisis, in keeping with the April 20 letter of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs
- Implementation of an aggressive program of universal testing for workers and residents
- Provision of adequate washroom and sanitation facilities, ensuring safe access for sex workers, women, and trans people and accessibility for those with disabilities