

# Your wage under inflation



Inflation leads to a loss of purchasing power over time: It means **your dollar will not go as far tomorrow as it did today**. The rate of inflation is typically expressed as an average (annual) change in prices for a standard set of goods and services used by households and businesses.



As an example, in Canada, the effect of inflation measured over a three-year period means that \$100 worth of **groceries purchased in 2019 would actually cost \$108.91 at today's prices**. Another way of looking at it: with \$100 today you could purchase only \$91.82 worth of the items you bought back in 2019. Which ones would you leave out?



In 2021, Canadians saw the **highest rate of inflation since 1991**. This was a result of many factors including the global COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions, severe weather catastrophes, and out-of-control housing prices.



As inflation rises and the cost of living skyrockets in communities across the province, **public service workers are falling further behind—because their wages aren't growing as fast as prices**. And there's no end in sight: recent monthly data from Statistics Canada show that Canada's inflation rate is now at a 30-year high having reached 5.7% in March 2022.



## Asks at bargaining table

Your bargaining committee has made good progress so far on some very important issues that will substantially improve the working lives of our members, but members gave a clear message that cost-of-living protection is critical to reaching an agreement. To protect your wages from inflation and general uncertainty, your committee has tabled a proposal for a two-year agreement with cost-of-living protections – COLA – in each year.

B.C. is an expensive province and it's getting more expensive every day. **Any wage offer from the employer that doesn't include cost-of-living protection is a wage cut**, and no worker should be expected to take a wage cut—especially not the public service workers who kept our province running over the last two years