



September 21, 2020

Stephanie.Smith@bcgeu.ca

Dear Stephanie,

Stephanie

I want to thank you and the BCGEU for bringing to the government's attention your concerns regarding the delay in processing the temporary pandemic pay premium.

I recognize that the pandemic has been a challenging time for your members and many of the eligible employees are eagerly awaiting the payments as they may be facing additional financial pressures as a result of Covid-19.

I can assure you that the seven ministries and hundreds of service providers, whose employees are eligible to receive the premium, are working diligently to get the payments out as quickly as possible. The delay up to now has chiefly been due to the administrative complexities associated with distributing a new program to more than 250,000 employees working for hundreds of different employers.

Despite these challenges, it should not have taken this long to get the payments out. We should have done better, and I sincerely apologize for the impact this has had on your members.

I am pleased to report, however, that the payments are expected to start going out to eligible employees during the month of October. While the timing of those payments may vary from employer to employer, we expect that eligible Public Service employees will receive the payments on either their October 16th or October 30th paycheques.

On behalf of the government, I want to thank the BCGEU and your members for the significant contributions you have made during the pandemic. At times such as these, the public looks to the public sector for essential support and your union and members have played a vital role in assisting the province get through these challenging times.

For any additional information related to the temporary pandemic pay program, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Rathbone, A/President & CEO of the PSEC Secretariat at Chris.Rathbone@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



Don Wright

Deputy Minister to the Premier, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Public Service

pc: Okenge Yuma Morisho, Deputy Minister, BC Public Service Agency
Chris Rathbone, A/President & CEO, Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat