



September 2, 2020

392988

Stephanie Smith, President  
BC Government and Service Employees' Union  
[President@bcgeu.ca](mailto:President@bcgeu.ca)

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for your letter, sent on July 8, 2020, outlining your questions and concerns regarding temporary pandemic pay (TPP) for the Liquor Distribution Branch employees. I appreciate you taking the time to share your ideas and feedback with me.

Government recognizes all employees who have been working to support the Province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. TPP recognizes the incredible efforts of the many health and social services workers delivering frontline care to B.C.'s most vulnerable people during the pandemic. This is a cost-shared program with the federal government that has a finite amount of funds.

As you know, when you and other representatives of the province's unions were advised about the parameters of the program and its limitations, this meant that it was not possible to provide the top-up to all employees working in public-facing or front-line services at the height of B.C.'s initial pandemic response. I can appreciate your members' disappointment. Efforts have been made to maximize the benefit for the most employees possible.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. Your comments are important to us and I appreciate your input on how we can build a better BC.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carole James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carole James  
Minister and Deputy Premier

cc: Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training  
Honourable Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction