

BCGEU COMPONENT 4

HEALTH SERVICES

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS

Your collective agreement is an important resource that outlines the working conditions, wages, and benefits that your employer must provide. You can find a copy of your collective agreement online: <https://agreements.bcgau.ca/>

Contact your local chair if you have any questions about your collective agreement.

WORKLOAD CONCERNS

Workload has always been a concern for workers in Health Services, and the pandemic has added even more duties. If you're feeling overworked or overwhelmed, don't suffer in silence!

Contact your shop steward or local chair to discuss your workload challenges and what options are available to address them.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The COVID-19 pandemic does not take away your health and safety rights. Those four rights are:

- Right to Know
- Right to Participate
- Right to Refuse unsafe work
- Right to no discrimination for refusing unsafe work

[Click here for more information on your rights.](#)

If you're interested in learning more, consider signing up for a health and safety training: <https://events.bcgau.ca/ohs>

BCGEU FACEMASKS

There are still a limited number of free BCGEU masks available to members. If you haven't already received your free mask, contact your shop steward or request a mask online: <https://form.123formbuilder.com/5542060//>



Public Health Inspector



Social Worker



Medical Lab Assistant

COPING WITH THE STRESS OF COVID-19

Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations like COVID-19. You may feel anxious, angry, sad, or overwhelmed. Please know that you're not alone, and reach out for support if you need it.

All Health Services members are eligible for free, confidential, peer support through the Care to Speak program. Click [here](#) for information on how to receive support via online chat or telephone hotline: <https://www.careforcaregivers.ca/caretospeak/>

Here are some other free resources and services that may be useful:

- [Here to Help \(Canadian Mental Health Association\)](#)
- [Mental Health and COVID-19 \(HealthLink BC\)](#)
- [Mental Health and Substance Use support \(HealthLink BC\)](#)
- [Mental Health and Cultural Support for Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [Mental Wellbeing During COVID-19 \(BCCDC\)](#)

You may also have additional supports (such as an Employer and Family Assistance Program or EFAP) available through your employer. Please contact your employer to ask if you have access to additional support services.

THANK YOU!

2020 has been a very difficult year due to COVID-19 - and while the end is in sight, the pandemic will continue to present challenges until most of the population is vaccinated.

BCGEU members in Component 4 (Health Services) have played an important role during the pandemic. Whether you work on the front lines, or in a support role, you've served your community with dedication and shown incredible resilience in the face of a dangerous virus.

During the pandemic, our union leadership hasn't had as many opportunities to meet members face-to-face, but we've appreciated the opportunities to connect with you in new ways - through zoom calls, emails and more. We're including the contact info for all our local chairs, and encourage members to get in touch if they'd like to connect.

We greatly appreciate all of the sacrifices of our members and their families this year, and we're incredibly proud of all our Component 4 members. Thank you for your good work this year.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a prosperous new year,

Mahen Ramdharry
Vice President, Component 4 (Health Services)

Cina Opel
2nd Representative, Component 4 (Health Services)



From the unceded territory of the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt and Tsawwassen First Nations (Mahen) and the Snuneymuxw, Snaw-Naw-As and Stz'uminus Nations (Cina).

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ESSENTIAL PAY FOR ESSENTIAL WORK

We were disappointed that the Ministry of Finance left many Health Services workers out of the Temporary Pandemic Pay (TPP), and we're continuing the fight for Essential Pay for all Essential Workers.

We also recognize that although some members who were deemed eligible for TPP have received it, many members are still waiting on the funds - especially members working in for-profit care facilities or who are entitled to TPP on overtime hours.

The BCGEU has expressed disappointment over these unacceptable delays directly to the government. In response to our pressure, the [B.C. Government publicly apologized for the delay, and committed to getting the funds out.](#) We will continue to keep up the pressure until all essential workers get the essential pay they deserve.

Visit the news section of our website for updates: <https://www.bcgeu.ca/news>

ACCURATE COVID-19 INFO

Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Tik Tok and others can be a great way to connect with friends and family, share our thoughts and feelings, and get a good laugh - but social media isn't always a reliable source of information about COVID-19.

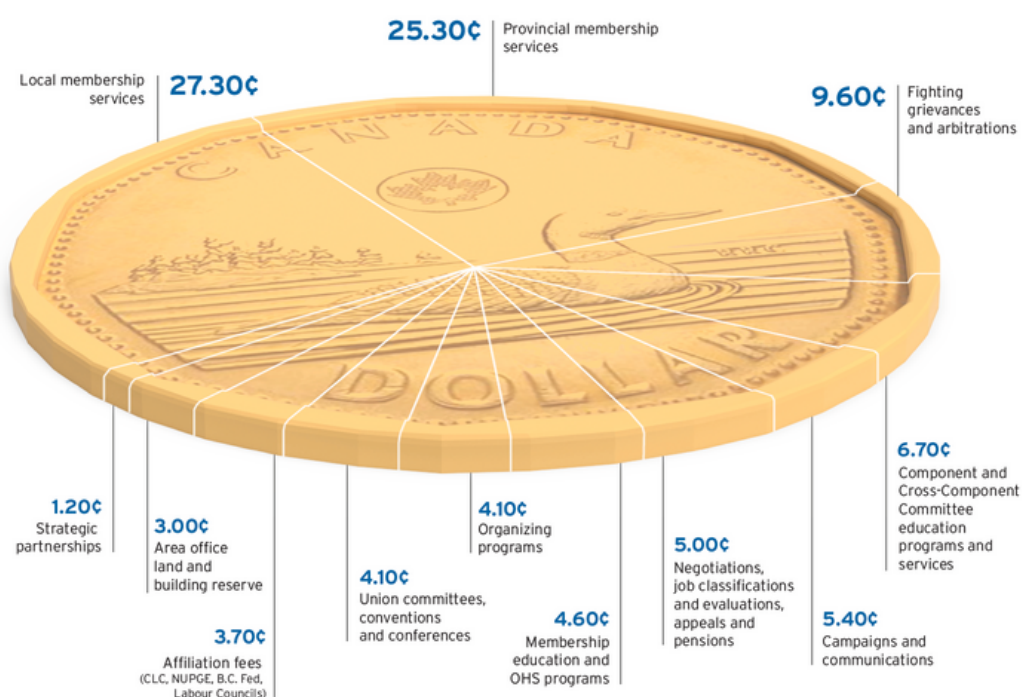
With more and more COVID-19 misinformation circulating online, we wanted to encourage you to think critically about information shared on social media, and point you towards reliable, up-to-date sources of information.

Here are some sources of information you can trust:

- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [BCGEU COVID-19 Info Hub](#)
- [WorkSafeBC](#)
- [B.C. Government COVID-19 response page](#)

HOW YOUR DUES DOLLAR WORKS FOR YOU

BCGEU members can have confidence that the full value of their dues goes to service their needs and interests. Almost all member dues are allocated to servicing. Since 2017, the defence (strike) fund has grown by its own investment returns, and only 3% of member dues are allocated to the area office land and building reserve. Strategic partnerships (funds provided to third party allies) are limited to approximately \$10 per member per year, and monitored through a written application system democratically vetted by senior leadership.



KEEPING YOUR CONTACT INFO UP TO DATE

It's important that our union is able to reach you with important information, such as instructions on how to vote in bargaining elections, health and safety updates, and more. To make sure you don't miss important info, please make sure your contact information is up to date. You can update your contact info through the online member portal: <https://my.bcgeu.ca/login>

CONVENTION 2021

BCGEU's Constitutional Convention is scheduled for June 9 - 12, 2021. Our convention is an important event where members come together to meet other members, elect union leadership, and set our union's priorities for the years to come. Notices will go out early next year with information about delegate nominations and local meetings.

The convention was initially scheduled for 2020, but had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Next year's convention will include virtual options to make sure members can take part safely from their own homes if gathering together is not possible.

STAY SAFE!

With the holiday season upon us, and a new year around the corner, the greatest gift we can give our healthcare members, co-workers, friends, family and the community is to follow all Provincial Health Officer Orders and Guidelines to slow the spread of the virus so it doesn't overwhelm our health care system.

Please stay home as much as possible, wear a mask, wash your hands or use alcohol sanitizers, physically distance, and keep to your immediate household only (if you live alone, visit the same one or two people). We need to keep this up until the majority of the population is vaccinated and the Provincial Health Officer gives us the all clear to return to pre-pandemic life.

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