

Convention Resolution C-85

THE BCGEU WILL:

- Lobby the Provincial Government to provide adequate resources to the Court Services Branch to fulfill their existing mandate, including hiring the required number of Deputy Sheriffs to adequately and safely staff all BC Court Houses; and
- To install search gates at all BC Court houses to protect public safety; and
- To look at ways to increase the Sheriffs mandate to fully support, enhance and protect those valuable public services.

BECAUSE BC Sheriffs have been losing members to other higher paying law enforcement jobs and have had to staff high security court trials with Correctional Officers; and

BECAUSE the safety of Judges, all Court staff, Sheriffs and the public is paramount and should not be compromised; and

BECAUSE BC Sheriffs are highly skilled and respected Peace Officers who have been underutilized in the law enforcement community for too far long.

Convention Resolution C-86

THE BCGEU WILL:

- Fully support and will be active in disallowing non-Sheriffs and excluded staff from performing the duties of the Deputy Sheriff; and
- Request that the employer form a joint task force to examine the staffing crisis and make recommendations that put into action to address the crisis in all due haste;

BECAUSE a staffing crisis in Sheriff Services exists; and

BECAUSE several court trials have been postponed due to lack of sheriffs; and

BECAUSE as of March 2011 there are over 2000 adult criminal cases in British Columbia in jeopardy of dismissal due to the unacceptable time delay conflicting with the Canadian Charter of Rights and previous precedence in law; and

BECAUSE these postponements deny the Charter of Rights of accused, victims and witnesses in receiving timely justice and resolutions; and

BECAUSE non-Sheriff personnel are being used in a number to supplement the ranks of the sheriffs although these personnel do not have the weapons training, nor do they wear the mandatory personal protective equipment; and

BECAUSE the duties of the sheriffs in remote circuit courts are being contracted out; and

BECAUSE the staffing crisis has resulted in blocks of time being designated as “No leave will be granted under any circumstances”; and

BECAUSE there have been directives to excluded sheriff management that they are expected to perform the duties of Deputy Sheriffs; and

BECAUSE it is obvious by their actions and in some cases lack of action, that the employer does not consider Sheriff Services and essential service.