



B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union
A component of NUPGE (CLC)

April 27, 2010

Via fax: (250) 387-0087
Via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Hon. Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
Room 156
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Campbell:

Re: Call for B.C. poverty reduction plan

There is a growing call in British Columbia for legislated targets and timelines to reduce poverty and end homelessness. I am writing, on behalf of the 65,000 members of the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union, to urge you and your cabinet to answer this call.

The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition has renewed its open letter (enclosed), calling on your government to initiate a comprehensive and accountable poverty reduction plan for our province. The BCGEU is a member of the coalition, and we have endorsed this open letter.

We, like most British Columbians, are ashamed of the levels of poverty and homelessness in our province.

There is an urgent need for a poverty reduction plan in British Columbia. BCGEU members, through their work and in their communities, are acutely aware of this need.

BCGEU members protect children at risk, help to shelter the homeless, and work in legal aid and court services. They provide income assistance, support immigrant families, care for and educate young children, and work with vulnerable women. They assist First Nations families, work in corrections, and provide health and community social services to disadvantaged clients.

They see poverty and its outcomes everyday. Now they want to see action.

We endorse the measures and recommendations set out in the enclosed letter. We urge your government to do the same, and to immediately commit to a poverty reduction plan for British Columbia.

Yours truly



Darryl Walker
President

Encl.

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cc: ***Sent via Email***

Hon. George Abbott, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
Hon. Moira Stilwell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
Hon. Michael de Jong, Minister of Attorney General, acting Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Hon. Mary Polak, Minister of Children and Family Development and Minister Responsible for Child Care
Hon. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education and Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy
Hon. Colin Hansen, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier
Hon. Kevin Falcon, Minister of Health Services
Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Healthy Living and Sport
Hon. Rich Coleman, Minister of Housing and Social Development
Carol James, Leader of the Official Opposition
Robin Austin, Critic for Education, Early Learning and Literacy
Dawn Black, Critic for Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
Jagrup Brar, Critic for Healthy Living and Sport
Adrian Dix, Critic for Health Services
Mike Farnworth, Critic for Public Safety and Solicitor General
Maurine Karagianis, Critic for Children and Family Development and Child Care
Leonard Krog, Critic for Attorney General
Jenny Kwan, MLA for Vancouver-Mount Pleasant
Bruce Ralston, Critic for Finance and Public Accounts
Bob Simpson, Critic for Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
Shane Simpson, Critic for Housing and Social Development