



200 – 5118 Joyce Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V5R 4H1  
t 604.430.1421  
e [bcfed@bcfed.ca](mailto:bcfed@bcfed.ca)  
[bcfed.ca](http://bcfed.ca)

## **Good Jobs, Good Wages Action Plan**

### **Recommendations to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services**

**Submitted by the BC Federation of Labour**

**Accompanying an oral presentation by**

**Aaron Ekman, Secretary-Treasurer**

**October 5, 2016**

The BC Federation of Labour calls on the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services to recommend in its report to the Legislature that the BC government implement a *Good Jobs, Good Wages Action Plan* that would include the following measures:

#### **\$15 Minimum Wage**

1. That the Select Standing Committee call on the BC government to implement a \$15 per hour minimum wage and develop a timetable for its prompt implementation to lift half a million BC workers out of poverty.

#### **Make good paying full-time jobs a priority**

2. That the BC government urgently address the growing imbalance between the loss of good paying full time jobs and growth in part time, low paying precarious work by developing a clear jobs strategy that fosters the creation of good paying full-time work in all sectors of the economy; and that government establish the goal of making BC first in Canada in the creation of good paying full-time jobs.

#### **Address declining wages**

3. End the trend of declining average wages in BC relative to the rest of Canada by fostering an economy that strives to create good-paying full-time jobs, and that the BC government establish the goal of making BC first in Canada for the highest average wage.

#### **Protecting existing good jobs**

4. That the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour offer practical policies and assistance to support employers facing challenges particularly in the traditional resource sectors to protect jobs—like those being lost with the recent mill closure in Merritt—and provide best practices expertise in value-added so that our province reaps more from our abundant resources.

...2

### **Government actions that foster low-wage economy, precarious work**

5. That the Select Standing Committee request that the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour identify all government legislation, rules and regulations that contribute to precarious work, low wages and instability for families; and take action to eliminate all these measures that contribute to low wages and the rise of precarious work.

6. That the BC government create a level playing field for all workers to improve their economic circumstances and that appropriate government programs are in place to ensure that all British Columbians can participate in the labour market.

### **Precarious work**

7. The Select Standing Committee calls on the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour to undertake balanced research into the rise of precarious jobs, its impacts on workers and communities, and identify solutions to better protect workers and improve wages and working conditions.

### **Temporary foreign workers**

8. The Select Standing Committee calls on the BC government to advocate for changes to temporary foreign worker programs to ensure these programs are truly used as a last resort; put in place Aboriginal and local hiring plans; that the required training programs are in place to recruit, train and equip British Columbians to take on these jobs; and ensure British Columbians have priority access to jobs on BC projects.

### **Transition to a green economy**

9. The Select Standing Committee calls on the BC government to ensure that in the transition to a green economy, transitional strategies are in place for workers who will be impacted by change to protect existing good-paying full-time jobs and create new jobs that sustain the environment and support community stability.