March 20, 2020 |

Statements

Resources for workers during COVID-19

It is an overwhelming time. To help workers focus on the public health situation, the BCFED will be updating this post with resources and links to understand your rights, and get the information and supports you need.

Provincial Government

- The BC government has announced the BC COVID-19 Action Plan in response to the pandemic
- The provincial health officer has issued a number of industry specific guidance documents to provide clarity on what is expected from employers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently, documents were issued for the retail food and grocery sector and industrial work camps. You can view all of the documents in one place here
- BC government announces measures to support renters and landlords
- The governments of BC and Canada have compiled information on the publicly available provincial and federal programs for temporary foreign workers during the COVID-19 pandemic
- The provincial government is securing hotels, motels and community centres to house people experiencing homelessness or living in otherwise insecure conditions
- The provincial government is offering child care support, including temporary emergency child care, to essential workers in BC
- The provincial government has established the VictimLinkBC support and shelter program for women and children experiencing violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact

VictimLinkBC by phone at 1-800-563-0808 or by email at VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca

- The provincial government is offering monetary support to renters impacted by COVID-19
- Applications for BC Emergency Benefit for Workers will open May 1

BC Emergency Program Act

- BC government increases its powers by invoking the Emergency Program Act

Provincial Supports

- Vancity Credit Union, the Vancouver Foundation, and the United Way have launched a Community Respond Fund to support non-profits providing services to those most in need.
- ICBC allows payment deferrals during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Vancity Credit Union offers mortgage payment deferrals, payment flexibility, and other supports during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Community Savings Credit Union offers financial support package for workers impacted by COVID-19
- Coastal Community Credit Union offers financial relief program to those impacted by COVID-19
- The BC Centre for Disease Control has established health guidelines for retail food and grocery stores in response to pandemic.
- The Retail Action Network has set up a Worker Solidarity Fund to help BC workers weather the pandemic.
- The BC Government has developed a COVID-19 Temporary Pandemic Pay program for front-line care and support workers.
- BC Hydro Customer Crisis Fund available for anyone struggling to pay utilities bills during this crisis
- Translink has suspended fare collection on buses to support social distancing?

Know Your Rights at Work

If you are working, your employer is required to provide you with a safe work environment. Here is some information about workplace health and safety rules as they apply to the COVID-19 outbreak.

- Occupational health and safety resource for COVID-19, from the BCFED Health & Safety Centre
- Your rights during the COVID-19 pandemic, from the Retail Action Network
- WCB Information on COVID-19 and Workers' Right