

# An open letter to the Government of BC:

We are worker and public health advocates, progressive employers, unions and community organizations, united in calling on Premier John Horgan and the BC government to bring in a 10-day sick pay program that is seamless, applies to all workers, replaces full wages and ensures sick workers can't be fired for staying home.

The public health and economic case for 10 days of paid sick leave in BC is overwhelming:

- Workplaces have been key sites of deadly Covid transmission leading to business closures, acute economic struggles for workers, and costly stress on our healthcare system. Paid sick days help contain infectious disease, reduce health care costs, and limit the spread and scale of transmission during a pandemic
- Providing paid sick leave reduces inequality. Over half of BC workers have no paid sick leave. For workers earning less than \$30,000 — who are disproportionately women and racialized workers — that figure rises to 89%.
- BC lags badly behind comparable jurisdictions around the world. 10 days is common across the OECD; New Zealand and Australia offer 10 days of paid sick leave, while Germany offers 30. And Canada's federal government is poised to introduce 10 days of paid leave in federally-regulated sectors.
- New research shows British Columbians across the political spectrum overwhelmingly support 10 days of employer-paid sick leave. Eight in 10 believe the sick leave program should cover 10 or more days. And more than three quarters of British Columbians believe it should be universal, and cover part-time and casual workers too.
- The cost of workers coming into work sick and infecting others far outweighs the costs to employers of providing paid leave — including the risk of complete business shutdown during a pandemic. Research from the US shows negligible impacts on the bottom line of small businesses when paid sick leave is introduced. It reduces employee turnover and workplace injuries and increases worker productivity.

On Monday, October 25th, workers and paid sick leave supporters will take part in a Covid-safe Day of Action at the provincial legislature in Victoria and across Metro Vancouver. We call on Premier Horgan and the BC government to lead the country and enshrine 10 days of paid sick leave as a right of employment for workers.



CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS  
CONGRÈS DU TRAVAIL DU CANADA



Worker  
Solidarity  
Network



United Way  
British Columbia



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CIVIL LIBERTIES  
ASSOCIATION



CANADIAN DOCTORS | MÉDECINS CANADIENS  
FOR MEDICARE | IRÉGIME PUBLIC



firstcall  
Child and Youth  
Advocacy Society

