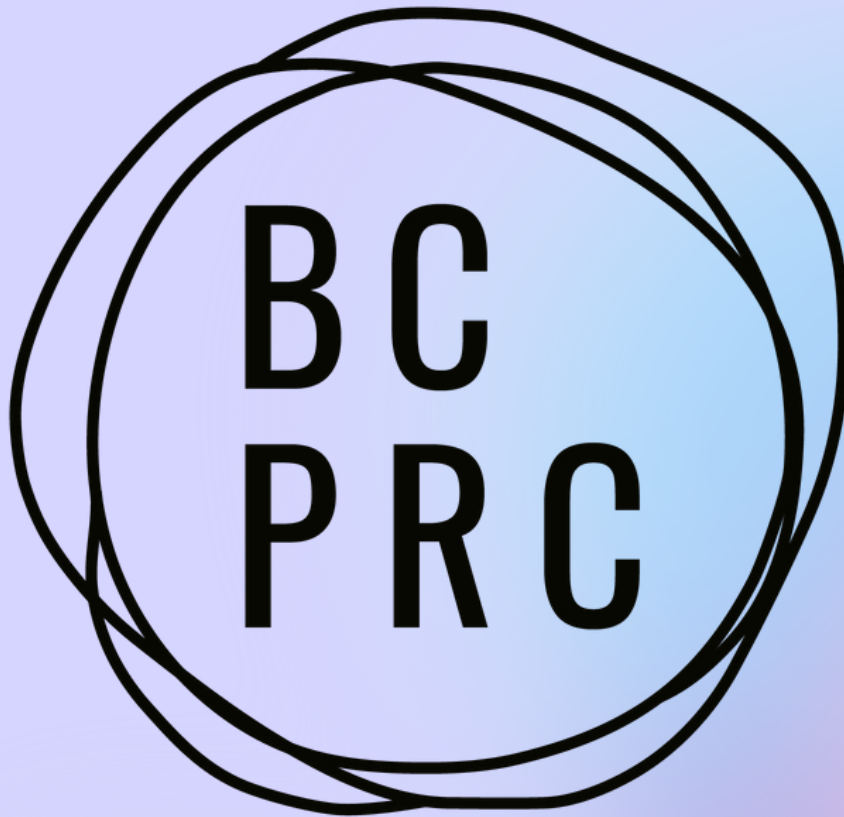




spotlight



September '23

Workers' rights are human rights

The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition is comprised of over 80 organizations and community mobilizations that come together to advocate for public policy solutions to end poverty, homelessness and inequality in B.C.

We aim to improve the health and well-being of all living in British Columbia. The Coalition advocates for a targeted and comprehensive poverty reduction strategy that prioritizes equity-seeking groups, and a whole government, cross-ministry approach to ending poverty. Our work is grounded in the foundation of universal human rights.

A variety of union and labour organizations are part of the BCPRC. Why? They recognize the value of solidarity, collective action, and collaboration. Our partners in labour know that **together we are strong**, and together we can make change.

Read on to learn more about our labour partners.

If you are part of a labour organization and want to join this momentum, reach out to our Provincial Director at rowan@bcpovertyreduction.ca

BC Federation of Labour

Twitter: [bcfed](#)

Facebook: [bcfed](#)

Instagram: [bcfedoflabour](#)

The [BC Federation of Labour](#) (BCFED) represents more than 500,000 members of our affiliated unions, from more than 1,100 locals, working in every aspect of the BC economy. The BCFED is a strong advocate for all workers in BC, and we are committed to ensuring that workers' rights are maintained and strengthened.

Why is BC Federation of Labour part of the BCPRC?

We are part of the BCPRC because it is a broad-based coalition uniting different groups across the province working on intersecting poverty issues and using **the power of collective action and solidarity to make change for the working class**. We have worked together on increasing the minimum wage, advocating for a living wage, raising the rates, and providing childcare, housing and other universal basic services.

What is BC Federation of Labour working on to support your members in tackling the increasing cost of living?

As well as continuing to work on the areas above, one issue we are currently working on is to improve pay and working conditions for gig drivers, such as those that work for Uber and Skip The Dishes. These precarious, and predominantly racialized, workers have been speaking out about low pay, long hours, unfair terminations, and health and safety issues. We are amplifying their voices to urge the government to provide these workers with basic employment standards and protections.

MoveUP

Twitter: [MoveUPTogether](#)

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MoveUP represents nearly 14,000 union members at public and private sector companies across Canada, primarily in British Columbia, in many of the industries and professions fundamental to our economy including at BC Hydro, FortisBC, ICBC, Capilano University, transit providers, credit unions and car rental companies.

Why is MoveUP part of the BCPRC?

As a progressive union, our mission is to unite professionals to champion and advance the rights, dignity, and respect of all workers. We fight for our members at the bargaining table to ensure they are fairly and appropriately compensated for the important work they do. Being part of the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition lets us come together with a likeminded organization. It allows us to collaborate and strategize and advocate for those who need support the most so we can lift people out of poverty particularly through good paying unionized jobs, improve their quality of life, and create welcoming and inclusive workspaces where people feel safe.

What is MoveUP working on to support your members in tackling the increasing cost of living?

Our union and our members are well aware of the increasing cost of living, and one of the key ways we continue to support our members is to ensure that we negotiate strong collective agreements that reflect our rapidly changing world. This includes negotiating wage increases that account for inflation, strong benefits that cover members and their loved ones, and pensions that ensure a dignified retirement. Our union also advocates for our members' best interests to ensure that local, provincial, and federal governments have our members' backs. Especially when they create policies that have a direct impact on our members, their families, their work, and their communities.

CUPE BC

Twitter: [cupebc](#)

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Instagram: [cupebc](#)

Canadian Union of Public Employees BC is our province's largest union, with more than 100,000 members providing the public services and education communities rely on. CUPE BC's members work in local government, public education, post-secondary education, community health and social services, emergency services, transportation and a range of non-profit and provincial agencies. CUPE BC's mandate is to represent its members, and fight for the advancement and well-being of working people in British Columbia.

Why is CUPE BC part of the BCPRC?

BC suffers from an unequal distribution of resources whereby those at the top, the wealthy and well connected, enrich themselves at the expense of low- and middle-income citizens, who are falling further behind every day.

The work and mandate of the Poverty Reduction Coalition aligns with CUPE BC's goal of building a fair economy, reducing the gap between the rich and everyone else, and eliminating poverty so we can truly build a better BC for everyone.

What is CUPE BC working on to support your members in tackling the increasing cost of living?

CUPE BC is in its third year of a long-term campaign to create and expand public childcare in BC's schools. Childcare delivered by the existing K-12 system will provide parents access to safe, reliable and affordable care in their communities. This form of childcare for school-aged kids can be delivered using existing school spaces, and by providing more hours to existing and underemployed education workers. Public, school-based childcare would mean better wages and benefits for childcare workers, full and sustainable employment for education support workers, while providing lower cost and more accessible childcare for parents.

Hospital Employees' Union

Twitter: [HospEmpUnion](https://twitter.com/HospEmpUnion)

Facebook: [hospitalemployeesunion](https://www.facebook.com/hospitalemployeesunion)

Instagram: [heu_in_bc](https://www.instagram.com/heu_in_bc)

HEU's more than 60,000 members are essential to delivering quality care across the province. You can find us working in hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities and in community services. From winning gender-based pay equity to fighting to reverse privatization and protect public health care, HEU members look out for one another – and have for almost 80 years.

Why is HEU part of the BCPRC?

Generations of health care workers have benefited from the power and pride that comes from standing together. In that tradition of solidarity and social justice, HEU members continue to stand up for each other and the vulnerable in our society. We work with BC PRC because HEU stands steadfast in our human rights advocacy work.

There is no justice until we have a society that genuinely reflects diversity, equity and inclusion – where every person feels safe, valued and respected and has what they need to survive and thrive. But we can't get there on our own. We need each other to do this work. That's why we work with BC PRC. United we stand, divided we fall.

What is HEU working on to support your members in tackling the increasing cost of living?

Our Make It Public campaign successfully reunited thousands of workers with the public sector – ending poverty wages for thousands of hospital housekeeping and food service workers.

The Care Can't Wait campaign seeks to improve working and caring conditions in seniors' care by bringing in common standards for better wages, benefits and working conditions.

Health Sciences Association of BC

Twitter: [hsabc](#)

Facebook: [HSABC](#)

Instagram: [hsa.bc](#)

Health Sciences Association of BC is a union that represents more than 22,000 health care and social services professionals working in hospitals, community health settings, child development centres, transition houses, and other community agencies across British Columbia.

Why is HSABC part of the BCPRC?

As members working in health care and community social services supporting some of the most vulnerable in our communities, HSA members know first-hand that many of the challenges facing our patients are a direct result of a failure to address and improve social determinants of health – including economic security. The union's Committee on Equality and Social Action promotes economic and social justice, equality, and labour solidarity, and advocates for measurable, sustainable, and positive social change. The committee, comprised of elect union members, disburses funds set aside in the union's Equality & Social Action Fund to organizations working to support common objectives, including the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition.

What is HSABC working on to support your members in tackling the increasing cost of living?

As a union, HSA supports members through bargaining collective agreements that provide wages and benefits to make life more affordable. In addition, the union lobbies government for improvements for all British Columbians through direct campaigns, and in solidarity with other BC unions through the BC Federation of Labour.

BC General Employees' Union

Twitter: [bcgeu](#)

Facebook: [bcgeu](#)

Instagram: [bcgeu](#)

The BC General Employees' Union includes over 85,000 members in 550 bargaining units across both the public and private sectors. About a third of the BCGEU's membership works in the direct government service. Their jobs include protecting children and families, administering social assistance, managing natural resources, staffing provincial correctional facilities, fighting forest fires and providing the government's technical and clerical services.

Our union is also proud to include thousands of members in health care, community social services, education, highways maintenance, casinos, credit unions, municipalities, regional districts and many other workplaces.

Why is BCGEU part of the BCPRC?

BCGEU members work with many of our communities' most vulnerable members, and we see the impact that strong public services can have in addressing the impacts of inequality and lifting B.C. residents out of poverty. For that reason, BCGEU members have consistently passed resolutions at our constitutional conventions setting poverty reduction to be among our top priorities.

What is BCGEU working on to support your members in tackling the increasing cost of living?

In addition to building workplace power to achieve better wages and benefits at the bargaining table, BCGEU members have made addressing housing affordability as one of the union's top priorities. Our AffordableBC campaign – launched in 2017 – has been advocating for housing affordability by advocating for policy changes and mobilizing members to fight for local changes. The campaign has successfully achieved a rent freeze, fought against demovictions, advocated for the construction of a new, BCGEU-built affordable housing project, and more. In its next phase, the campaign is rolling out a toolkit at local events where BCGEU members will be trained to organize and advocate for housing affordability in our communities.

UFCW 1518

Twitter: [UFCW_1518](#)

Facebook: [ufcw1518](#)

At UFCW 1518, we believe that we are stronger together. Everyone deserves safe and respectful working conditions and a healthy community. By continuing to win fights for fairness, organize workers in diverse industries, and support causes that benefit communities, we can improve quality of life for all British Columbians.

BC Teacher's Federation

Twitter: [bctf](#)

Facebook: [BCTeachersFederation](#)

Instagram: [bcteachersfederation](#)

Representing 50,000 teachers, the BCTF advocates for a free, inclusive and quality public education system where the learning needs of all students can be met.

Labour Partners

at a glance



If you are part of a labour organization and want to join this momentum, reach out to our Provincial Director at rowan@bcpovertyreduction.ca