



August 30, 2021

Via email: liam.lawson@gov.bc.ca

Mr. Liam Lawson
Senior Ministerial Advisor
The Hon. Selina Robinson
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Mr. Lawson,

Re Essential Pay for BCLDB workers

Thank you for meeting with BCGEU staff representative Brittany Skinner and I on April 9. I'm writing to follow up on our conversation during that meeting about essential pay for BCLDB workers.

In our conversation, we asked that the Finance Minister authorize the BCLDB and CEO/General Manager Blain Lawson to use funds from the BCLDB's pandemic-generated record profits, to provide essential pay to workers in BCLDB retail stores and warehouses.

We offered multiple reasons why these workers are deserving of essential pay, and noted that the Temporary Pandemic Pay (TPP) program is closed and therefore no longer an option.

By the end of our conversation, it seemed that you and others present were in agreement that these workers are deserving of recognition for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, you agreed to bring our request for essential pay back to the Finance Minister for consideration. However, we have not yet heard from you the outcome of her consideration. Will the Finance Minister authorize our request?

Lastly, I want you to know that BCLDB workers will be rallying outside BCLDB head office in Burnaby on Wednesday, September 1. The intention of the rally is not to target Blain (who, we acknowledge, does not have the authority to issue our request) but to both celebrate workers' efforts as government-deemed essential workers and to invite Blain to add his voice to securing essential pay for their essential work.

I welcome hearing from you or Minister Robinson in advance of the September 1 rally.

Sincerely,

Kusam Doal, BCGEU Vice President, Component 5 (Retail and Warehouse)

cc Britt Skinner, Coordinator, BCGEU Advocacy Department
FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

JW/CE/MoveUP