



**B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union**  
A Component of NUPGE (CLC)

December 1, 2020

**VIA EMAIL:** [FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Honourable Selina Robinson  
Minister of Finance  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Robinson,

**Re Temporary Pandemic Pay (TPP)**

I am writing to request an urgent meeting with you to discuss ongoing delays in the dispersal of funds from the B.C.'s COVID-19 Temporary Pandemic Pay (TPP) program to some of our province's lowest paid frontline workers.

As you know, the TPP was announced in the spring as a way to provide additional financial support and well-deserved recognition to thousands of our province's essential workers in health care, social services, corrections and other sectors supporting vulnerable British Columbians. You also likely know that the dispersal of funds did not start until several months after the program was announced. What you may not know is that many BCGEU members working in community social services and some working in health services have still not received these long-promised funds.

Our union has communicated with government repeatedly on behalf of our members on this issue—first requesting more information, eventually expressing our extreme disappointment and demanding immediate release of the funds. Now, more than six months after the program was announced and almost three months after our union received assurances that the problems that lead to the delay had been identified and fixed, thousands of our members have still not received their TPP payments. In a particularly cruel twist, the members who are still waiting are some of the lowest wage and highest risk essential workers in B.C.

As we approach the holiday season I cannot overstate the importance of this additional financial support or the negative impact of the ongoing and unacceptable delay in payment. I'm sure you understand that the delay is not only frustrating for our members it significantly undermines our shared belief that your government values the contributions that working British Columbians have made throughout the pandemic.



I look forward to meeting with you to discuss a firm date when our members can expect to receive their long-awaited TPP. I'm available at your convenience. Please contact my assistant Brian Gardiner at [brian.gardiner@bcgeu.ca](mailto:brian.gardiner@bcgeu.ca) or 604-291-9611 in order to set up a time to meet and discuss next steps.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Smith  
President

HR/ce  
MoveUP