

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Community & Social Services Leaders Call on Provincial Government to Demonstrate Fair & Equitable Practices

Victoria, B.C. – Moments ago on the steps of the BC Legislature, the BC CEO Network – which represents over 120 community and social services organizations from around the province – called on the provincial government to act with integrity by demonstrating fair and equitable practices with respect to financial compensation in the sector.

Recently, the provincial government announced that though all members of the sector will be receiving a 2% general wage increase, those monies allocated for low wage redress – approximately \$20 million dollars (which will, on average, add an additional 4% on-top of the 2% general wage increase) – will only be distributed among employees who are union members.

Doug Tennant, Chair of the BC CEO Network, described the decision by the provincial government as “shocking” and went on to say that the decision “not only creates an inequity within services providers, it divides a sector committed to caring for others, it exacerbates the recruitment and retention issues that this government is already well aware of and, it creates an unnecessary tension among those who work side-by-side on a daily basis.”

Karyn Santiago, BC CEO Network Board Vice-Chair described the decision by government as “ideologically driven” and “putting politics before people”. She went on to say that the decision was also “inconsistent with the platform the provincial government campaigned on and marginalizes those that this government committed to empowering; including women and Indigenous Peoples”.

During Tuesday afternoon’s press conference – which drew dozens of community social service representatives from all over the province – Tennant also made it abundantly clear that non-union workers will “only be receiving the 2% general wage increase, nothing more”; something he believes “invalidates those who work hard every day to make a positive difference”.

The press conference drew to a close with the BC CEO Network calling on the provincial government to rectify the situation. “Caring for others means caring for everyone, equally. We don’t have different tiers of service, so to compensate one group and not the other is a huge injustice”.

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