



CUPE 1004 COVID-19 UPDATE

To: All CUPE 1004 Members

March 20, 2020

Dear Local 1004 members,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our communities and workplaces, we will do our best to update you with developments as they occur. The BC Government has declared a provincial state of emergency and the City of Vancouver has declared a local state of emergency. This pandemic continues to rapidly change from day to day and often, hour to hour.

UNIT UPDATES:

City of Vancouver and Board of Parks and Recreation

Today, Friday, we learned the City is sending many members home for the next two weeks with pay. There has been no layoff notice at this point.

We have concerns with the City's actions and the lack of consultation with the Union. We appreciate the income support and the need to bring workers off the job. We have taken our concerns to the City Manager's Office and the Office of the Mayor.

The Union is available to meet with the City over the weekend to hammer out a Framework Agreement to best address operations during the pandemic, and protect jobs, seniority and our livelihoods during the Public Health Crisis.

We need the City make available PPE such as hand sanitizer, washing facilities, sanitizing wipes, and face masks. We continue to raise serious concerns on a daily basis and at every level of management.

EasyPark

While there have not been any formal layoff notifications circulated to members of this unit, the Employer has advised that revenues have been significantly reduced. The Employer has advised that they are assessing impacts this may have on the workforce. We have asked for a meeting to be scheduled as soon as possible to discuss the impact that this reduction in revenue may have on our members.

PNE

Layoff notices have been circulated to a significant amount of members in this unit. We are in the process of meeting with the Employer to discuss the impacts on our members. In addition, we are seeking to determine what Health and Safety measures have been taken to deal with workplace exposure.

PHS

As healthcare workers, all members of this unit will continue working. We are adamantly pushing the Employer to provide all PPE necessary so that the members of this unit are able to do their job safely. We know that many of you are not being provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment including supplies to keep your workplace safe. As different levels of Government develop plans for the health & safety of residents and workers in the Downtown Eastside, we will keep you updated as information becomes available.

Federation of Post Secondary Educators, BCIT Faculty and Staff Association, Capilano Students' Union, & other small units

The Union has worked with the Stewards and Employers of these units to ensure that members are able to work from home where applicable, and we continue to reach out to all of the small unit Employers to ensure the safety of our members.

Occupational Health & Safety

We continue to push Employers to provide the necessary tools and materials to members to meet their legislated obligation to provide a safe and healthy working environment.

If you do not feel safe doing your job because your Employer has not provided you the PPE that you need, you have the right to refuse unsafe work under OHS Regulations. Any retaliation, discriminatory action and/or reprisals by employers against workers is prohibited.

For more information, please click on the following link:

- [WorkSafeBC - Info re refusing unsafe work](#)

If you are continuing to work, please visit the WorkSafe BC link below for information outlining how you can stay safe while doing your job.

- [WorkSafeBC - Staying safe at work](#)

If you have any specific concerns or suggestions regarding items that you need in order to perform your work safely, please phone or email your Steward, Unit Chair, or the Union office.

The local office currently remains active, but measures are being taken to respect social distancing, excellent hygiene, and working from home where possible. If you need to make contact with the Union office, please do so by phone or email and we are doing our best to limit person to person interactions at the office.

Now more than ever, solidarity is of the utmost importance. We must support one another while following the guidelines laid out by our public health officials.

In Solidarity,

Andrew Ledger
President, Local 1004