**BC EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS COALITION**

**Bringing together organizations, advocates and workers to campaign for decent wages, working conditions, respect and dignity in the workplace.**

**WORKERS IN BC HAVE VIRTUALLY NO RIGHTS AT THEIR WORKPLACE**

The BC Employment Standards Act is supposed to provide the minimum labour rights to which employees are entitled, such as minimum wages, minimum and maximum hours of work, overtime pay, parental leave and statutory holidays, but this law is out of date and has not been independently reviewed for over 23 years.

The BC Government has no intension of making changes to the Employment Standards Act for the foreseeable future but is providing funding for a review by the BC Law Institute. This review is being done behind closed doors without any consultation from workers who are affected the most. The Government’s past changes have meant fewer rights for working people. It’s time that workers had their voices heard so that they can gain the rights they deserve.

The BC Employment Standards Coalition is holding a number of “Workers’ Forums” to hear from workers about how to increase workers’ rights under the Employment Standards Act, or what improvements need to be made at the Employment Standards Branch to help workers with workplace complaints they may have, such as unpaid wages or an unjust termination.

The BC Employment Standards Coalition is made up of organizations and advocates campaigning for more rights for workers, and stronger enforcement against employers who violate the rules.

In order to get changes to the Employment Standards Act and to get the support that workers need when they have a complaint we need to hear from workers. We need to hear about your experiences and frustrations with employers who have not been paying the proper wages, or how you have not been getting overtime premiums when forced to work excessive hours, or you have been terminated for no reason and were not paid the proper severance pay.

* You may have experienced, or know other workers who have experienced, wrongful or unjust treatment from an employer and have tried to make a complaint but have been frustrated from not knowing how to file the complaint.
* Or maybe you have tried to make a complaint but withdrew because you were not able to face your employer when you were given a Self Help Kit by Employment Standards to initiate a complaint.
* Maybe you have tried calling an Employment Standards Office only to hang up after getting tired of hearing a recording that just delays patching you through to an Officer who can help.
* Or maybe your employer had not been paying you properly for over a year but when you filed a complaint they were only required to pay you for the last six months. Corporations have protections when they are owed money isn’t it time workers had those same protections.

Workers need stronger employment laws and the support to help them when an employer violates those protections.

There is no need to remain silent. Come out and tellus your story of a bad employer and how hard it was to file a complaint against that same employer. We may be able to help you with an employment standards complaint, and the story you tell us, anonymously if desired, will be recorded, assembled with others into a submission to government, and publicised.

Together we will make the changes so that no other worker has to go through that same frustration and make sure that bad employers will be held accountable.

You can help by attending a “Workers Forum” in your community and telling us your stories of employers who have violated Employment Standards and your frustrations when you tried filing a complaint against them. You don’t need an appointment just drop by one of the following locations during the posted times.

**Cloverdale:** Tuesday, October 11th, from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm

5783 – 176A Street (Unifor Local 780-G Hall)

**Central Burnaby:** Wednesday, October 12th, from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm

Bonsor Recreation Complex, South Burnaby Metro Club Room, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby

**East Vancouver:** Thursday, October 13th, from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm

BCGEU office, Tsawwassen Room, 130 – 2920 Virtual Way (near the Renfrew Skytrain Station)

**Northeast Burnaby** Monday, October 17th, from 3:30 pm to 9:00 pm

**& Coquitlam:** Cameron Community Centre, Cedar Room, 9523 Cameron Street, Burnaby (near Lougheed Mall &Skytrain)

**Central Vancouver:** Wednesday, October 19th, from 10:00am to 9:00 pm

Vancouver Public Library, in the Alma VanDusen Room

**New Westminster:** Thursday, October 20th, from 10:00am to 9:00 pm

326 – 12th Street (Unifor Western Region Office)

THE LAST TIME THE BC GOVERNMENT MADE CHANGES TO EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS THEY LOWERED THE MINIMUM WAGE FOR SERVERS WHO WORK IN ESTABLISHMENTS THAT SERVE LIQUOR.

**WHO IS NEXT?**

IT IS TIME TO INCREASE THE RIGHTS FOR WORKERS

AND TO GIVE THE SUPPORT THAT IS NEEDED TO HELP THEM WHEN AN EMPLOYER VIOLATES THE EMPLOYMENT STANDS ACT

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BC EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS COALITION VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://bcemploymentstandardscoalition.com/>

OR CONTACT

Murray Gore: 604-671-9141; David Fairey: 604-430-6036;

Or Joey Hartman: 604-2540703

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