

# BC's Community Social Services Workers

## Caring for a living.

*The Community Social Services Bargaining Association of Unions collectively represents more than 15,000 community-based social services workers in British Columbia.*

BC Government and Service Employees' Union

Canadian Union of Public Employees

Hospital Employees' Union

Health Sciences Association of BC

United Food and Commercial Workers' Union Local 1518

Construction and Specialized Workers' Union Local 1611

United Steelworkers of America

International Union of Operating Engineers

BC Nurses' Union

Christian Labour Association of Canada

cep467 / cope378  
FA-698

For immediate release  
Vancouver, May 30, 2011

### **Community social service workers committed to strike**

*Unions call on B.C. government and employers to protect community jobs and services*

Frontline community social service workers across British Columbia have given their bargaining committee an 82% strike mandate. The vote follows more than 18 months of protracted contract talks that broke down on March 30.

“This strike vote comes at a time of deepening crisis in community social services,” says James Cavalluzzo, bargaining association chair. “We are seeing group home closures, cutbacks in agencies that serve women in crisis, families, people with disabilities, children with special needs and many others who rely on these community-based services.”

At issue are increased layoffs, job security, and a chronic recruitment and retention problem. “This seriously impacts the quality of care and support we are able to provide to some of our most vulnerable citizens,” says Cavalluzzo.

The Community Social Services Bargaining Association (CSSBA) says it is time for the provincial government and its employers to step up and provide the respect and resources needed to stabilize services and improve working conditions.

In the meantime, CSSBA is working to establish essential services levels to protect client health and safety in the event of job action.

Community social services workers provide a wide range of assistance to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, including child care for families, employment and housing support for people with developmental disabilities, specialized services for immigrants and First Nations families, substance abuse and addiction-related services, support for women dealing with violence, and much more.

The CSSBA includes nine unions representing about 15,000 workers employed by 220 agencies across British Columbia.

-30-

For media enquiries, please contact  
BCGEU Communications (604) 291 9611

---

### **Community Social Services Bargaining Association of Unions**

4911 Canada Way, Burnaby BC V5G 3W3  
Telephone: 604.291.9611 / 1.800.663.1674  
Facsimile: 604.294.5092