

September 21, 2006

The Honourable Carole Taylor  
Minister of Finance  
PO Box 9048  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Taylor;

As a non-union employee of a government-funded community social service agency, I was deeply troubled by your comments as related by Vaughn Palmer in his column in this week's Vancouver Sun.

For the past six months, my co-workers and I have waited patiently for your government to fund wage increases to non-union workers comparable to those given to unionized workers in our sector. My employer, Spectrum Society for Community Living, has had ongoing correspondence with your office and with others in government, attempting to bring about resolution to this matter. We have been led to believe that a settlement for non-union workers would be forthcoming. However, according to Mr. Palmer's column, you seem to be changing your mind on the basis that service contracts cannot be reopened mid-term.

With respect, Minister, re-opening contracts mid-term is exactly what your government is doing with unionized agencies in our sector, increasing their funding to cover their recent wage increases and signing bonuses. Your government opened contracts with all agencies in our sector – union and non-union – five years ago to cut our funding. The argument that contracts with non-union agencies cannot be re-opened at this time is neither fair nor rational.

Having waited so long and in good faith for your government to recognize the contributions of non-union workers, this latest setback is extremely discouraging. My co-workers and I are losing patience.

I urge you to reconsider your position and do the right thing.

Sincerely,