



## Community Social Service Workers: **The heart and soul of our communities!**

### **ADDING VALUE TO COMMUNITIES**

Community Social Service workers improve the quality of life in our communities by enabling people to go to work knowing that their loved ones' needs are met. This adds social and economic value to our communities.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- There are about 3,000 CUPE BC Community Social Service workers who live and work in our communities.
- We are community support workers for the developmentally challenged, employment counsellors, addiction counsellors, legal advocates, early childhood educators, and more.

### **THE REALITY OF COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS IN B.C.**

- Despite the valuable work that Community Social Service workers provide, ours is one of the lowest paid public sectors in B.C.
- Community support workers are undervalued because we support people who are often viewed as non-productive citizens in our society.
- We are predominantly women, immigrants and workers of colour.
- Increasingly, the government is offering employers small contracts. This means that Community Social Service workers often work two, three and even four jobs to make ends meet. One member has said: "I work three to four jobs and I don't have time to spend quality time with my children."
- Despite their hard work, some Community Social Service workers must rely on the Food Bank to supplement their income.

### **THE \$10/DAY CHILDCARE PLAN**

- Childcare and Social Service workers believe in a universal childcare plan that will reduce childcare costs while ensuring parents that their children are enrolled in programs that are inclusive and of the highest quality.

**CUPE**