

# BCGEU March & Rally – Media Backgrounder

**Date of Event:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025

**Location:** Vancouver, B.C. (Coast Salish Territories)

## 1. Event Overview

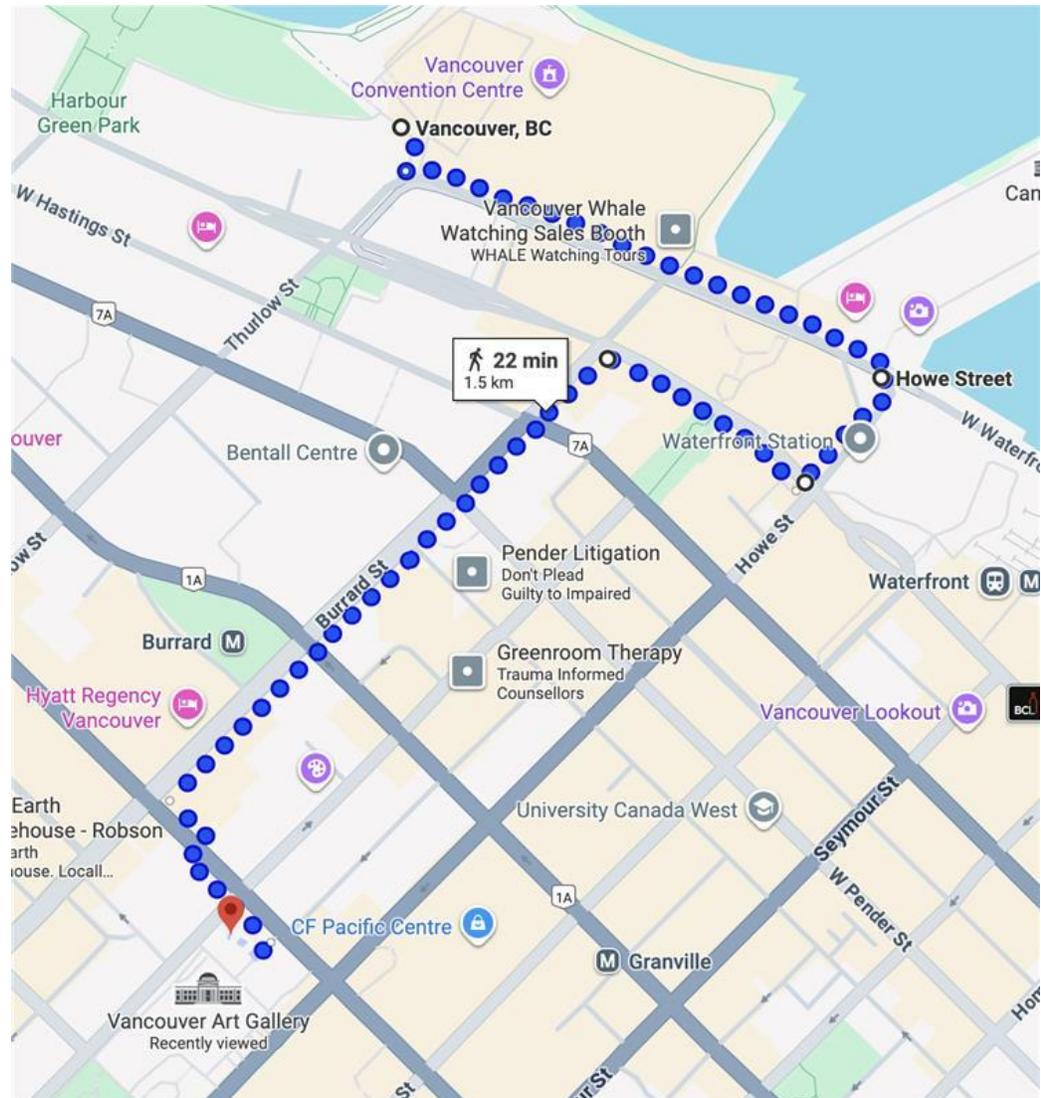
- **Purpose of the March and Rally**
  - Today’s march and rally marks one month since the beginning of job action by public service workers across B.C.
  - More than 16,000 workers are currently on strike
  - On Monday, September 29, the Public Service Bargaining Committee returned to the negotiation table with government where they were presented with an offer that was still below inflation and was not meaningfully different than what was previously overwhelmingly rejected by public service workers
  - Today’s rally is to demonstrate the strength and commitment of public service workers to carry on job action until a fair deal is reached

## 2. Key Facts at a Glance

Item	Details
<b>Start Time &amp; Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Picketers to gather at 11am</li><li>• 12pm March from Vancouver Art Gallery to Jack Poole Plaza;</li><li>• Rally begins at 1pm at Jack Poole Plaza</li><li>• Speeches expected from 1pm-1:30pm</li></ul>
<b>End Time &amp; Location</b>	Rally concludes by 2pm
<b>Expected Attendance</b>	1500-2000

### 3. March Route

- **Route Map:**



- March proceeds from the Art Gallery and proceeds down Burrard Street to Cordova before turning left on Howe Street and walking along Canada Place before arriving at Jack Poole Plaza
- Accessibility details: wheelchair-friendly route with chairs and tent seating at Jack Poole Plaza, first-aid station at Jack Poole Plaza.

### 4. Program & Speakers

- **MC/Host:** Robert Dromey

- **Speakers (in order of appearance):**
  - Speeches begin - 1pm MC Robert Dromeay
  - Elder Victor Guerin provides welcome
  - Melissa Moroz, Executive Director (Professional Employees Association)
  - Carole Gordon (BC Teachers Federation)
  - Scott Lunney (United Steel Workers)
  - Annette Toth (MoveUp)
  - Adriane Gear (BC Nurses Union)
  - Paul Finch (BCGEU)
  - MC - chants (unless Paul does it)
- Speeches expected between 1-1:30pm

## 5. Background on the BCGEU

- The **B.C. General Employees' Union (BCGEU)** is one of the largest and most diverse unions in British Columbia, representing over 90,000 members. Its members work in the provincial public service, health care, community social services, education, casinos, and many other sectors. The BCGEU advocates for fair wages, safe working conditions, strong public services, and social justice across the province.

## 6. Key Issues & Demands

### Strike issues

- Competitive wages that address the affordability crisis public service workers are facing
- Fair access to telework.
- A modernized contract with a classification system that more fairly values our work.
- A limit on non-union managers.

### Offers on the table

- On Monday, September 29 government called public service workers back to the negotiation table

- With an offer of 2% each year for two years, government's offer remains below inflation and it does nothing to close the wage gap faced by public service workers.
- Public servants can't keep falling behind. Wages in B.C. are up **40.6** per cent since 2016, but public service workers have only seen a **27.2** per cent increase. We're on strike to close that **13.4-point gap** and keep up with the cost of living. We are on strike to close that gap
- About 50% of public service workers report living paycheque to paycheque.
- More than half of BCGEU public service workers have considered leaving their jobs because of affordability concerns.

## 7. Media Logistics

- **Media liaison at art gallery: Jocelyn Wagner, 778-988-4849**
- **Media liaison at Jack Poole Plaza:** Holly Reid can be found at the tent closest to the stage
- **Media contact off site for interview coordination:** [nadja.komnenic@bcgeu.ca](mailto:nadja.komnenic@bcgeu.ca)
- **Interview Opportunities:** President, Paul Finch available throughout the afternoon except 4-4:30pm; member spokespeople available upon request
- **Photo/Video Guidelines:** Photos available here the following day. Speeches will be livestreamed at Jack Poole Plaza on BCGEU [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Youtube](#)

## 8. Safety & Accessibility Notes

- Marshalls are present throughout the march in high visibility vests
- Police have been advised of the march and the police liaison is Communications Director Charlotte Kingston
- First aiders will be present along the route and a first aid tent is at Jack Poole Plaza
- Sign-language interpretation is available on site
- Accessible washrooms are available in the Convention Centre to the side of Jack Poole Plaza

## 9. Additional Resources

- Links or QR codes to:
  - Full press release
  - BCGEU website & social channels
  - Background documents on bargaining issues

## **10. Other Unions in Attendance**

- PEA
- BCTF
- MoveUp
- CUPW
- BCNU
- HSA
- HEU
- CUPE (various locals)
- USW
- ILWU
- UNITE HERE Local 40
- IATSE
- BC FMWU
- CEU
- TSSU
- BC Forum

*Prepared by: BCGEU Communications*

*Date: September 30*