



## GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' UNION

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

September 11th, 2023

### **GVRDEU MEMBERSHIP VOTE 97.2% IN FAVOUR OF JOB ACTION AGAINST METRO VANCOUVER**

The Greater Vancouver Regional District Employees' Union (GVRDEU) represents over 600 employees who work in various departments that provide services to the Metro Vancouver region. These services primarily include the following: watershed management and security, water distribution, water treatment and disinfection, wastewater collection & treatment, affordable housing, regional parks, and air quality monitoring.

The previous collective agreement between GVRDEU and Metro Vancouver expired on **December 31, 2021**. Negotiations for a new collective agreement have been ongoing with 28 meetings over the course of 18 months, the last 10 meetings facilitated by a mediator at the Labour Relations Board. Bargaining reached an impasse on August 15th, and union members voted **97.2% in favour of taking job action** on August 23rd.

We are asking for fair compensation for some undervalued classifications and extended health care plan improvements comparable to other regional work groups. The Employer is demanding concessions to hours of work, short term illness and injury health plan, and that the Union forgo its fair wage settlement protection under the collective agreement. The strike mandate sends a clear message to Metro Vancouver,

*Our members will not accept their attempts to weaken our Collective Agreement and suppress wages, while they excessively expand their Management Team on the backs of the workers.*

Additionally, the Union is concerned that this delay in reaching a collective agreement has adversely affected worker retention and recruitment for Metro Vancouver services with long-term negative consequences for the Region.

It has become apparent that the Employer is using misguided tactics rather than engaging in constructive bargaining with the Union. The Union is prepared to escalate its efforts by applying significant pressure to achieve a just resolution through job action.

The GVRDEU Bargaining Committee is appealing to the **Metro Vancouver Board members** to address their Chief Administrative Officer Jerry Dobrovolny, and his Management Team to uphold a standard of respect for their workers and seek an equitable settlement in this challenging economic climate.

For more information on the GVRDEU bargaining status, please visit [www.gvrdeu.org](http://www.gvrdeu.org).

Sincerely,

Jesse Medeiros  
President GVRDEU