

Association of University and College Employees

LOCAL No. 1 (U.B.C.)

AUCE is on strike against the University of British Columbia. Why?

Simply stated, we are after recognition of the value of clerical work. Other segments of society -- manual workers, professional services -- have received adequate financial compensation for many years; but clerical work has been ignored.

It is obvious that this discrepancy is based on the outgrown myth of "second salaries"; that women only contribute to the family income and that they need not expect a living salary in their own right.

Surely it is time for this misconception to "bite the dust". As women (and men, for that matter) join the clerical work force as full-time wage earners, and as the percentage of single parents join the ranks, it has become increasingly clear that a decent living wage must be provided.

Our specific situation is even more dismal than the general picture. Despite a significant settlement in 1975, since that time we have been forced consistently to accept settlements well below the exorbitant cost of living. We have watched our net real wages eroded by \$125 per month over the past three years.

Your local food store (e.g. Safeway) pays its beginning employees \$10.68 per hour; our starting salary is \$6.17; a UBC labourer I (CUPE) starts at 7.86.

Is clerical work so unimportant? Not according to the professor who relies heavily on his secretary's skills to fulfill his function adequately. Not according to the student who needs his registration processed. Not according to the employee who is waiting for a paycheque.

So what's the problem? This University refuses to recognize the discrepancies. Your government is equally guilty. Their funding is wholly inadequate -- and this situation exists in this wealthy province and in this institution of "higher" education and social leadership!

So here we are in a strike situation which we don't want and can't afford.

We need your help. Contact the administration, your MLA, your MP and ask them why this situation cannot, or will not, be addressed.

Your support is more than just appreciated, it is essential!