

# Association of University and College Employees

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

April 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## A.U.C.E. MEMBERS HOLD STUDY SESSION TO SUPPORT THEIR DEMAND FOR MINIMUM LIVABLE WAGE

On Wednesday, April 9th, approximately 500 clerical and library workers at the University of British Columbia held a two hour study session in support of the Union's proposed base wage increase to \$1107 per month. The members are supporting this wage proposal even though it does not meet basic living expenses for many of their members. The budget that we have chosen to illustrate this point is for a working person with one child.

GROSS salary	CPP	UIC	TAX	NET salary *(exclusive of union dues, med. dental, group life & disability and pension deductions)
\$1107/month	17.98	14.95	177.35	<u>\$ 896.72</u>
<u>MONTHLY BUDGET</u>				
Rent	\$350.00	2 bedroom apt. - this is an average figure released by the Rental Housing Council for Vanc.		
Food	\$241.38	weekly - \$60.34 - based on Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index		
Transportation	\$40.00	\$1.00 per day to and from work, plus other travel		
Hydro	\$20.00			
Phone	\$12.00	basic cost plus 1 or 2 <u>short</u> long distance calls		
Clothing	\$69.68	based on Statistics Canada figures		
Entertainment	\$82.00	this would allow one adult one evening out a week - \$10.00 dinner, movie and baby-sitting		
House/Apt. Ins.	\$7.00	based on least coverage available (\$6,000 minus depreciation)		
Life Ins.	\$17.00	based on survey of major life ins. companies for female, aged 25, \$100,000 for 5 yr. term		
Furnishing/ Equipment	\$49.72	based on Statistics Canada figures - refers to appliances, cooking utensils, furniture, etc.		
Medical/Dental	\$18.35	based on Statistics Canada figures		
Daycare	\$160.00	based on Gov't of B.C. Day Care Dept. figures for a 3-5 yr. old.		
'Mad Money'	\$50.00	this would include newspapers, magazines, lunches, hair cuts, etc.		
TOTAL	<u>\$1117.13</u>			

\*\*NOTE: This budget does not include a car, Christmas or birthday presents, or savings.

Obviously the wage demand does not meet basic living expenses. In order to simply make ends meet, a person would have to make at least \$1400/month. The people who work in our bargaining unit are not only "recent highschool graduates who live at home" but also people with many years work experience and/or have families that are dependent on them. Nor does it even begin to address the issue of equal pay for work of equal value

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and the fact that female-type jobs are at the bottom of the wage pyramid. Even if the university accepts our wage demand as proposed, people in starting clerical positions will still be paid about \$200.00 per month less than comparable male-type jobs. For example:

1. A Jr. Technician at UBC who has a job similar to our pay grade II starts at \$1300 per month
2. A Mail room clerk at UBC starts at \$1360 per month

These figures are last year's wages for these groups and they are now negotiating new contracts which will further increase the disparities.

Said Nancy Wiggs, Chairperson of A.U.C.E.'s Contract Committee, "It is obvious that our members are unwilling to continue working for discriminatory wages. The entire issue of equal pay for work of equal value seems widely accepted by society. The question remains: When are women going to receive it?"

When asked why clerical workers at U.B.C. are not asking for parity with similar male-type jobs on campus, Nancy Wiggs replied: "I guess you could call this our contribution to the fight against inflation."

As a result of the study session, the University cancelled a prearranged negotiating session scheduled for Thursday, April 10th.

For further information, contact Wendy Bice, AUCE Local I Union Co-ordinator at 224-2308, or Nancy Wiggs, Chairperson of the Contract Committee, at 228-2880.