



POLICY

RE: PRIVATIZATION

Adopted by Executive Council: February 12, 2024

Reviewed by Advisory Committee: September 21, 2022

Purpose:

MoveUP values the many publicly owned and operated services provided to the residents of British Columbia. This Policy sets out MoveUP's position on the privatization of these services and programs, and specific responses to specific privatization initiatives.

Preamble:

British Columbia and Canada have a long history of providing valuable and essential services to their citizens. Public healthcare, the Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, affordable, clean, efficient power, and not for profit, non-discriminatory auto insurance and public transit are just a few examples.

These programs and services are delivered largely by unionized workers in direct government service and/or crown corporations.

The programs and services provide real tangible benefits for Canadians. A highly skilled, well-paid workforce not only delivers superior services, and a steady economic stimulus for their communities.

Often, public services come under attack by governments, political parties and business. Pressure and legislation are applied to convert these publicly owned services into private for profit, for-profit, businesses.

In many cases services can have a negative impact on the public. Examples include lower service quality, higher cost to consumers, substandard working conditions, and lower wages for workers. Governments often offload their responsibility and cost to a user pay system with little or no regard to the long-term benefits.

We must never forget that the privatization of public services disproportionately impacts marginalized people based on race and ethnicity, sex, romantic and/or sexual identity, class, health etc. Standing up against the privatization of public services, not only protects jobs, livelihoods, and citizens' interests, but it also takes an anti-oppressive stand against the impacts on those made vulnerable or marginalized by systems and institutions.

MoveUP will:

- Oppose the privatization of public services and programs.
- Actively campaign against the privatization of any of its bargaining units.
- Continue to promote the benefits and advantages of public ownership in appropriate programs and services.

- Work with the Canadian Labour Congress, BC Federation of Labour, Labour Councils, other unions, and progressive organizations to oppose the privatization of public services and programs.
- Work to ensure that the privatized employees remain MoveUP members and receive the best possible terms and conditions in any transition agreement or process.
- Assist other unions, where possible, who are threatened with privatization.
- Support organizing campaigns in unorganized workplaces that result from privatization.