



Education support workers in Alberta have fallen behind in their wages.

While inflation has run at 22% over the past 10 years in Alberta, the wage increase overall has been about 0.97%. Some locals in our schools have not had a raise in over a decade, some as little as 2%. This is beyond unreasonable. The average wage is just \$27,500 per year — not a living wage, in any area of the province, by any measure.

AEEC's primary focus has been on passing an emergency resolution, which received unanimous support at the provincial annual convention in March, in which we demanded a better wage and better funding from the provincial government.

To help increase awareness, a pin was designed. Simple pins with a simple message: *We are worth more than 0%*. A mandate from the UCP government to reduce wages by 3%, followed by years of 0% was changed to 0%, 0%, 0%, and finally 1.25% and 1.5% for 5 years.

An average increase of a mere .61 cents per hour over 5 years.

Over 10,000 of these pins were distributed across the province to education locals, to be worn by members and supporters.

In conjunction with this, we encourage our members, our supporters and workers from other sectors to join us in wearing purple on Wednesdays. We show our solidarity with purple T-shirts and our buttons. Worker Wednesdays are a visual reminder that unions work for people. Together we have power.

Town Halls are held approximately every two weeks with updates on the campaign, information about the situation in Alberta and an opportunity to ask questions. A WhatsApp Group was created to share information about bargaining with presidents in all education locals.

To show the government that we are serious we are circulating a petition that asks that workers be allowed to freely and fairly negotiate a living wage, to repeal the *Public Sector Employers Act*, which allows the government to dictate bargaining directives and impose wage mandates, and to increase public school funding, with the desperately needed increased wages for education support workers.

We need better wages. Wear purple on Wednesdays, wear your pin and [sign the petition!](#)

For more information please contact aeec.chair@gmail.com.