

Financial Support for VESTA Members

Job action can be financially challenging for some members. The following are some suggestions which may help ease your financial difficulties.

1. Talk to your financial institution about:
 - deferring loan or mortgage payments
 - opening or increasing a line of credit
 - consolidating your debts
 - receiving a loan
 - general advice/suggestions regarding financial hardship
2. VESTA has a copy of a letter to creditors you may wish to adapt for your own use. If your financial institution is not cooperative, be persistent. Do not accept the first answer you receive if it is not what you need. We are also able to send a letter from the union to your creditors asking for special consideration during our job action.
3. Other actions you can take:
 - Arrange to pay your rent in weekly or biweekly installments for the duration of the strike.
 - Request to defer or make partial payments on your telephone, heating, and electricity bills.
 - Seek financial assistance from family or friends
4. Contact the Employee Assistance Plan (1-800-387-4765) for confidential financial counseling services.
5. If after exploring all of the above options a member is still in need of support, the VESTA Collective Action Support Committee has a limited grant/loan program to which members can apply. Grants/loans are made on a priority need basis and will only be allocated after a member has exhausted all other avenues and resources. The committee reviews requests on an ongoing basis. VESTA can be contacted at (604) 873-8378 for more information. VESTA members and other VBE union groups are eligible to apply.
6. The BCTF Assistance Society may be able to assist you. The Society offers interest free loans to members based on needs, but not for financial hardship because of strike or lockout. If your financial challenges are due to reasons such as medical emergency, natural disaster, personal crisis, family crisis, or housing emergency, please contact the BCTF Assistance Society at (604) 871-1955.

Privacy Policy

VESTA is committed to complying with the British Columbia Personal Information Privacy Act. This includes managing the collection, use, disclosure storage, and ultimate disposition of our members' personal information in ways that safeguard the privacy of our members. For the complete policy contact your zone captain or school picket captain.