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An open letter to Property Owners, Managers and Cleaning Contractors

April 8, 2020

The COVID 19 pandemic has brought the importance of cleaning work into focus. Janitors, who are some of the lowest paid workers in our society, are being applauded for the vital role they play in maintaining public health.

Some industries have stepped up and are recognizing the value of their frontline workers. For example, there's been an increase in pay for some grocery store workers, and there's talk of the hazard pay for workers in other sectors. In the cleaning sector there have been some positive steps as well. At a small number of properties, workers have received wage increases. In some cases, staffing levels have been maintained despite a decline in tenant occupancy. However, these piecemeal measures fall short of a broad industry-wide initiative to recognize the value of janitorial work.

In the current crisis the property service sector has a historic opportunity to recognize the value of janitorial workers. We call on the Building Owners, Managers and Cleaning Contractors to work together to achieve the following:

- Provide an immediate 2/hr wage increase.
- Keep cleaners employed during the crisis.
- Ensure all cleaners are working safely with the required training and Personal Protective Equipment.

SEIU Local 2 will be attempting to rally public support for these demands under a campaign titled "From Invisible to Essential". To view the campaign webpage visit

<https://www.justiceforjanitors.ca/campaigns/from-invisible-to-essential/>.

It is our expectation that this campaign will generate considerable media interest, and with that, a public stage for the industry to demonstrate its support for its frontline workers.

Respectfully,

Tom Galivan
Secretary Treasurer
SEIU Local 2

