



## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Contact: Assya Moustaqim-Barrette  
[assyamb@seiulocal2.ca](mailto:assyamb@seiulocal2.ca)  
416-274-4903

### **Bee-Clean Janitors Win Paid Sick Days, Health Benefits, and a Wage Boost in their First Collective Agreement**

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia, November 3rd, 2020** – Bee-Clean Building Maintenance janitors in British Columbia voted to ratify their first collective agreement on Monday, November 2nd. The janitors, unionized with SEIU Local 2, came to a tentative agreement on Friday, October 30th, just two days before they were set to picket various locations across the Lower Mainland. The new collective agreement represents a substantial improvement to working conditions on various fronts. Namely, it includes a considerable wage boost, paid sick days, and employer-paid health and dental benefits.

Teresita Garvez, Bee-Clean janitor who works cleaning the Guinness Tower in Vancouver, reflects on the new collective agreement: "I'm happy for everything. We were ready to go all the way and strike, but I'm relieved we got this deal beforehand." Garvez considers the health benefits one of the janitors' most important successes: "The benefits are a big victory for us. I'm getting older, and I need those benefits. Paying out-of-pocket for dental and physiotherapy is difficult. And especially for my co-workers with children, these benefits mean a lot."

The health benefits are extensive, covering prescription drugs, health equipment, and paramedical services such as vision care and massage therapy. Dependents and part-time janitors will be eligible to enrol. Janitors have also won additional paid time off and improved vacation pay.

303 Waverley Street  
Ottawa, ON K2P 0V9  
P 613-567-3528  
F 613-567-0924

572 Arthur St. W., POB 32001  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 0A1  
Toll 1-888-887-5343  
P 807-473-9651  
F 807-473-3632

**SEIU 2 - Head Office**  
2600 Skymark Ave, 2-200  
Mississauga, ON L4W 5B2  
Toll 1-800-663-6841  
P 905-602-7477  
F 905-602-7476  
[seiulocal2.ca](http://seiulocal2.ca)

163 Wyse Road  
Lower Level  
Dartmouth, NS B3A 1M5  
P 902-455-1095  
F 902-455-1855

7128 Gilley Avenue  
Burnaby, BC V5J 4X2  
P 604-540-7774  
F 604-540-7779



Rosario Agustin, janitor cleaning the historical Marine Building in downtown Vancouver, speaks to the impact of union activism in securing the collective agreement: "It's been quite a while and it was a long fight. The strike pushed them [Bee-Clean Building Maintenance] to grant us what we demanded from our final offer. And it's about time!"

Most janitors in British Columbia are non-unionized and work for minimum wage, with no access to paid sick days and health benefits. Janitors seeking to improve these working conditions are increasingly turning to unionization. SEIU Local 2 is experiencing a surge of new members joining from the janitorial industry and will continue investing resources into organizing these essential workers.

SEIU Local 2 represents janitors across Canada, including in Nova Scotia, Ontario, New Brunswick, and British Columbia.

303 Waverley Street  
Ottawa, ON K2P 0V9  
P 613-567-3528  
F 613-567-0924

572 Arthur St. W., POB 32001  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 0A1  
Toll 1-888-887-5343  
P 807-473-9651  
F 807-473-3632

**SEIU 2 - Head Office**  
2600 Skymark Ave, 2-200  
Mississauga, ON L4W 5B2  
Toll 1-800-663-6841  
P 905-602-7477  
F 905-602-7476  
[seiolocal2.ca](http://seiolocal2.ca)

163 Wyse Road  
Lower Level  
Dartmouth, NS B3A 1M5  
P 902-455-1095  
F 902-455-1855

7128 Gilley Avenue  
Burnaby, BC V5J 4X2  
P 604-540-7774  
F 604-540-7779