



March 18, 2026

Hello Chemainus Members,

Following the Community Transition Meeting held on March 13th, 2026, there has been some more information passed along to send to you all regarding supports and resources that are available. We have heard consistently that EI payments and cut-offs have been a major issue. The Local Union, along with Mayor Rob Douglas and WFP's Jennifer Foster, have signed and sent a letter to Federal MP Patty Hadju with the Ministry of Jobs and Families to address the discrepancies and issues regarding EI payments, cut-offs, and the 20 extra weeks of EI payments. Below, there are two support lines available for EI inquiries and issues:

Service Canada Outreach Support Center (OSC)
Hours of Operation 8:30 am - 4:00 pm Monday to Friday
Toll Free 1-877-631-2657
TTY 1-833-719-2657

Employment Insurance Call Center: 1-800-206-7218

There is also a Job Fair that will be held on April 15th, 2026, between 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm in Ladysmith at the Ladysmith Eagles Hall for those interested. The poster with all the information is attached to this correspondence.

I have also attached the updated Impacted Workers Supports from the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth. If there are any other issues that we are not aware of or are coming up during any of these times, please reach out to inform me of these issues, and I can relay this information to the Transition Table and try to find a solution or other available resources.

We have another meeting scheduled for April 10th, 2026.

Thank you.

In Solidarity,

Mike Redman
Business Agent

351 Brae Road, Duncan, BC V9L 3T9
Phone: 250-746-6131

MR/pb
BCUWU

WorkBC Centre

LADYSMITH JOB FAIR
 April 15, 2026 | 12 - 2 pm
 Ladysmith Eagles Hall
 921 1st Ave

WorkBC Centre Ladysmith
 250.924.2884
 workbccentre-ladysmith.ca
 centre-ladysmith@workbc.ca

Canada BRITISH COLUMBIA
 This program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

Impacted Workers Supports

Available programs and resources for those impacted by job loss or uncertainty.



Employment Support

Last Update: February 2026

I need assistance with...	Program	Description
What are next steps for my career? Who can help me update my résumé, apply for jobs & prepare for an interview?	WorkBC Employment Services	WorkBC Centres are located across the province to provide individualized employment services. Services and support include personal employment planning, job search services and supports, job placement, wage subsidies, skills training and self-employment. www.workbc.ca/
How do I access Employment Insurance (EI), Canada Pension Plan (CPP) or Old Age Security (OAS)?	Service Canada	Service Canada helps individuals with questions on EI and with other federal income support programs. https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html

Support for Skills Training & Development

I need assistance with...	Program	Description
I want to start my own business or grow my side-gig. Where do I start?	Build Your Own Future Program	Northern Innovation Network -Build Your Own Future Program provides business training, coaching & mentorship, capacity building workshops, and a \$5,000 grant towards startup expenses. www.northerninnovation.ca/byof/
How can I get training to prepare me for a new job or industry?	WorkBC Centres	WorkBC Centres can help with individuals find funded training opportunities available in their region to help transition them into new jobs. www.workbc.ca/discover-employment-services/workbc-centres
Who can help me with apprenticeships and certifications?	SkilledTradesBC	SkilledTradesBC pre-apprenticeship trades training delivers trades training and employment programs through community service providers, training providers and Indigenous communities. https://skilledtradesbc.ca/

<p>Is there a skilled trades-focused organization that can help me with training and career development?</p>	<p>Construction Foundation of BC</p>	<p>The Construction Foundation of BC (CFBC) supports workers by reducing barriers to employment through training, education, and mentorship, focusing on youth, Indigenous communities, and newcomers. They offer programs for driver's license training, mental health support, and career guidance, including the "Road to Red Seal" initiative, which provides direct assistance to apprentices.</p> <p>https://cfbc.ca/</p>
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Social Supports

I need assistance with...	Program	Description
<p>I need immediate mental health support.</p>	<p>310 Mental Health Support</p>	<p>310 Mental Health Support (310-6789, no area code required) is a toll-free number connecting callers to a BC crisis line. Offers emotional support, information on appropriate referral options, and a wide range of support relating to mental health concerns.</p> <p>www.helpstartshere.gov.bc.ca/resource/310-mental-health-support</p>
<p>How can I find resources to help manage my and my family's well-being?</p>	<p>HelpStartsHere Mental Health support</p>	<p>HelpStartsHere is a website that has over 2,600 service listings publicly funded or not-for-profit mental health and substance use supports.</p> <p>https://helpstartshere.gov.bc.ca/blog/virtual-mental-health-and-substance-use-supports</p>
<p>Where can I find free physical and mental health resources for me?</p>	<p>Health Link BC</p>	<p>Health Link BC (8-1-1), available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for non-emergency health advice and to talk to a health services navigator or a registered nurse.</p> <p>www.healthlinkbc.ca/</p>
<p>Where can I get financial planning support?</p>	<p>Credit Counselling Society</p>	<p>Provides free, confidential credit counseling, educational resources on personal finance, and low-cost debt solutions to help people achieve financial well-being.</p> <p>www.nomoredebts.org/</p>

