

# Municipal employee wages grow faster than province's: report

446,000 people employed in B.C.'s public sector in 2013

\$27.6 billion paid in wages and salaries to public sector workers in 2011

**Union wage increases  
(2001-2012)**



**Percentage spending  
increase (2000-10)**



Co-ordinated approach across all governments among recommendations

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VANCOUVER SUN

Salaries for municipal employees rose by 38 per cent between 2001 and 2012, far outstripping inflation and doubling raises earned by provincial public sector counterparts during the same period,

according to a report leaked Monday.

The report by Ernst & Young outlined what it describes as unlimited and unregulated wage policies within municipalities that led to the 38-per cent hike. Those increases came during a time when core government and public sector salaries rose by 19 and 24 per cent respectively, according to

the report.

Municipal compensation is so fragmented and out of control, according to the report, that the provincial government should centralize bargaining and create a new municipal public sector employment strategy.

The report, commissioned by the B.C. government and leaked by the Canadian

Taxpayers Federation, is a review of public sector compensation and suggests the province should give its new local government auditor general powers to review and rein in wages.

Rhona Martin, president of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, lashed out against the report Monday, saying it represented "a direct assault

on the autonomy of local governments."

"I am shocked at their suggestion there should be a centralized bargaining unit across the province. That's what happened with the teachers, and look how that's turned out," she said.

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