

March 30, 2017

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Media Advisory for Immediate Release

“Not-a-Party” Election Party seeks to rally independent workers ahead of the Provincial Election

Event features music, art installations, comedy, and lightning talks from local residents.

Can self-employed, contract or freelance workers become a political constituency? This is the question behind “Not-a-Party” Election Party, a celebratory event presented by the [Urban Worker Project](#) - a national initiative that advocates for the growing numbers of independent workers across the country.

The Globe and Mail [recently reported](#) that ‘precarious work’ (part-time, temporary and self-employment) makes up close to one-third of Canadian jobs. With the BC provincial election coming up in May, local organizers want to make precarious work an election issue that attracts Millennial voters to the ballot box.

The event is part of a day-long skill sharing event where urban workers share best practices and address the big picture issues associated with precarious work - access to affordable housing, benefits, childcare and income security. As the Urban Worker Project group points out, jobs in arts and culture, tech, knowledge, not-for-profit and service sectors come without things like parental leave, health benefits, or workplace protections; not to mention access to income security measures between jobs. This is the second event hosted by the Urban Worker Project on the west coast and marks the one year anniversary of their launch.

The goal of the event is provide a fun atmosphere to explore the connections between precarious work, affordability, and a stronger social safety net. It is organized by Gen Why Media and is targeted at the demographic of young Canadians notoriously disengaged from the electoral process. The aim is to offer a culturally-based approach to political engagement.

“Young people are continuously told how important it is to be politically engaged, yet political parties rarely address issues associated with part-time, contract work which is how many young workers are employed,” says Tara Mahoney, PhD student and creative director of Gen Why Media. “Young urban workers are concerned about issues that increasingly make their lives more insecure - rising costs of housing, education, and childcare. This event invites precarious workers in Vancouver to think more politically and more collectively about the conditions of the worklife”.

DETAILS:

Date + time: April 8th, Doors @ 7pm | Show @730pm

Location: Vancouver Mural Festival HQ, 207-877 East Hastings Street

Not-a-Party Election Party tickets: <http://bit.ly/UWParty>

Skillshare (daytime event) tickets: <http://bit.ly/UWPskill>

SPEAKERS

- Stephanie Nakitsas and Andrew Cash - Founders of the [Urban Worker Project](#)
- Paul Kershaw - Founder of Generation Squeeze and the [Code Red Affordable Housing Campaign](#)
- Irene Lanzinger - President of the BC Federation of Labour and [Better Can Happen Here Campaign](#)
- Eugene Boulanger - [Independent artist, student, activist for decolonization](#)