

WCB Bargaining Update August 19, 2011

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Fellow WCB Members,

During the evening of August 17, 2011, a tentative agreement was reached with our employer after many hours of monetary discussions. The complete details of this agreement will be distributed as soon as possible and ratification vote meetings will be scheduled for Regina and Saskatoon.

In summary, the terms of this 3-year tentative agreement (commencing January 1, 2010 and ending December 31, 2012), includes a significant number of contract language improvements, a new letter of understanding which ensures job security for permanent staff for the duration of this agreement, and wage increases equal to the Public Service mandate of 5.5% (1.5, 2 and 2% annually) for all eligible staff retroactive to January 1, 2010. We also secured an increase in employer matched pension contributions, from 7 to 7.25% retroactive to January 1, 2011 and an increase in our wellness benefits, from 1.4 to 1.6% of employee regular gross pay retroactive to January 1, 2011.

The bargaining climate impacting us and other crown bargaining units made it difficult to bargain equitable salary increases without risking a loss of existing benefits. In our deliberations, the Negotiating Committee weighed our decision against the potential cost of the loss of existing benefits. By reaching this tentative agreement, we have secured net gains and ensured no loss of the major benefits we have achieved in previous collective agreements.

**REPORT
ON**

BARGAINING

SGEU

Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union

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There are aspects of our collective agreement that do not exist in many other agreements and retaining what we have is to our benefit. Our objective was to enhance our agreement and not create takeaways for the benefit of short term monetary gains. The Negotiating Committee was united in our approach and we are confident that our tentative agreement reflects our commitment to achieving that objective.

The dates of the ratification vote will be announced and majority vote will confirm your acceptance of our tentative agreement.

In Solidarity,

WCB Local 2180 Negotiating Committee:

Jeff Herzberger
Terry Holzer
Joanne Newman
Natalie Langill