



# **CONSTITUTION**

**of the**

**Saskatchewan Government and  
General Employees' Union**

**Saskatchewan Component**

**of the**

**National Union of Public and General Employees**

**Affiliated with**

**The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour**

**And**

**The Canadian Labour Congress**

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May 2025**

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## **ARTICLE 1      NAME**

- 1.1.            This Organization will be known as the “Saskatchewan Government and General Employees’ Union (SGEU).

## **ARTICLE 2      LOCATION**

- 2.1.            The headquarters of the Union shall be permanently located in the City of Regina, Province of Saskatchewan.
- 2.2.            Satellite Locations are located in the City of Saskatoon and the City of Prince Albert, Province of Saskatchewan.

## **ARTICLE 3      OUR HOPES AND DREAMS, VISION, MISSION, STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE, VALUES**

- 3.1.            Our Hopes and Dreams
  - 3.1.1           We believe in a world that is fair and equitable, where communities are safe and just and we are all free to thrive economically and socially.
- 3.2.            Vision
  - 3.2.1           A professional labour organization impacting the betterment of lives and communities.
- 3.3.            Mission
  - 3.3.1           The SGEU is a democratic organization serving the interests of members, all workers, and the community through the provision of member services, community support, and advocacy.
- 3.4.            Strategic Imperative
  - 3.4.1.           Member Satisfaction
- 3.5.            Organizational Values
  - 3.5.1.           Service
    - We strive for excellence in our service to members, stakeholders, and the labour movement.
  - 3.5.2.           Accountability
    - We operate in the most professional manner and exemplify the highest standards of union management.
  - 3.5.3.           Fairness
    - We demonstrate equity and justice in all we do.
  - 3.5.4.           Respect
    - We foster a safe environment for members, stakeholders, and staff.

- 3.6. The SGEU Experience
  - 3.6.1. Members
    - 3.6.1.1 “We are proud to be an SGEU member.”
    - 3.6.1.2 To be the successor in all respects of the “Saskatchewan Government Employees’ Association” a body corporate registered under The Societies Act of the Province of Saskatchewan.
    - 3.6.1.3 To unite its membership into a union for their mutual benefit and improvement.
    - 3.6.1.4 To provide for united action in promoting the common interest of all members, and to function solely as a non-sectarian union.
    - 3.6.1.5 To foster the establishment of educational programs for the benefit of the members.
  - 3.6.2. Community and Public
    - 3.6.2.1 “SGEU partners with community and charities through service and funding.”
    - 3.6.2.2 To encourage the establishment of social, recreational and cultural programs.
    - 3.6.2.3 To promote justice, and equality in services to the public.
  - 3.6.3. All Workers
    - 3.6.3.1 “SGEU advocates for and represents all workers while providing leadership to the labour movement.”
  - 3.6.4. Employers
    - 3.6.4.1 “SGEU is a professional organization with whom we proudly partner to create a better work life for all.”
    - 3.6.4.2 To regulate labour relations between the Members and their Employers and Managers, said labour relations to include the scope of negotiation, collective agreements and health and safety standards, and the safeguarding of human rights.
  - 3.6.5. Financial Accountability
    - 3.6.5.1. Sustainability
      - We ensure sustainability by prudently managing resources.
    - 3.6.5.2. Growth
      - We position for future growth.

## **ARTICLE 4      MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1. General
  - 4.1.1. All employees within the bargaining units of the Union pursuant to orders of the Labour Relations Board shall be eligible for membership in the Union.

## 4.2. Member in Good Standing

4.2.1. Except as specified below, status of member in good standing in the Union shall be accorded only to those employees who have signed the necessary application for membership, who are actively employed in a bargaining unit of the Union, who abide by the rules and regulations duly passed by the Union and who pay the prescribed dues and assessments.

4.2.2. Every Member in good standing is entitled:

4.2.2.1. To be represented by the Union;

4.2.2.2. Subject to any qualifications stipulated elsewhere in this Constitution, to be nominated for, and hold one (1) or more offices in the Union;

4.2.2.3. To participate in the Union's business and in the election of delegates and alternates to Convention;

4.2.2.4. To receive a copy of the Constitution of the Union and to be advised of amendments to it, and to receive an up-to-date copy at the member's request whenever the Constitution is amended and reprinted.

4.2.2.5. **Attend Union meetings and other functions, to vote and run for or hold Union office, and otherwise participate in the affairs of the Union.**

4.2.3. A member shall remain in good standing provided they are:

4.2.3.1. Not more than three (3) months in arrears in payment of dues;

4.2.3.2. Gainfully employed in a bargaining unit for which the Union holds or seeks recognized bargaining rights;

4.2.3.3. Not penalized by suspension or **expulsion** following sanction under Article 12.1, the Code of Ethics of the Constitution, or the policy of the Union;

4.2.3.4. Not penalized by suspension or **expulsion** following sanction of a breach of SGEU's Statement of Equality, provided that in accordance with any applicable laws, no such penalty shall require the employer to discharge such member from employment;

4.2.3.5. However, failure to meet the requirements of Articles 4.2.3.1 or 4.2.3.2 above shall not disqualify members who are absent from their regular place of employment on leave of absence, paid or unpaid leave as per Article 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5. Nor shall it disqualify members who are absent from their regular place of employment under Article 4.6.

4.2.3.6. **Members penalized by suspension or expulsion as defined in Articles 4.2.3.3, 4.2.3.4 shall be entitled to union representation, and be entitled to vote relating to strike activity, contract ratification and votes ordered by the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board.**

4.2.3.6.1. **As defined in Article 4.2.3.6, the Union shall provide an alternate mechanism to allow members penalized by suspension or expulsion to vote and provide adequate written information to inform these voters on what they are voting about.**



- 4.2.4. Notwithstanding the provision of Article 4.2.3., upon payment of full Union dues a member shall remain in good standing while:
  - 4.2.4.1. Holding elected political office in any government, municipal, municipal board or commission, school board, public utility, social or welfare agency; or
  - 4.2.4.2. Holding appointed office on any board or commission, etc. as a representative of labour; or
  - 4.2.4.3. Holding elected or appointed office in any labour organization to which the Union is affiliated.
- 4.2.5. Only members in good standing may hold office.
  - 4.2.5.1. Members resigning from an elected position must do so in writing. A three (3) day grace period will be given to the member to withdraw their resignation. Once the grace period has passed the following process will be followed:
    - a) The alternate would step in to complete the elected term.
    - b) If no alternate then the Constitution, Sector/Local Bylaws or Bargaining Guidelines process for filing of vacant positions would come into effect.
  - 4.2.5.2. A member that resigns or is not re-elected shall return all assets of SGEU and grievance documentation to SGEU within 14 days.
- 4.2.6. Proxy Voting
  - 4.2.6.1. Proxy voting is not permitted at any level of the Union. Proxy voting is a process by which a person is appointed to vote the interest of another member at a meeting. This does not include mail-in ballot voting as the double envelope system is used.
- 4.2.7. Annual Membership Calculation
  - 4.2.7.1. For the purposes of calculating representation on Provincial Council, convention delegations, internal and affiliation levies, and for budgeting, the membership count shall be based on the average of the monthly membership totals for the previous twelve (12) month period from May 31st back to the previous June 1st.
- 4.2.8. Mid-Year Calculation for Employer Initiated Restructuring
  - 4.2.8.1. For the purposes of calculating representation to the Provincial Council in the event a Sector has been re-organized due to actions initiated by the government/employer, the membership count shall be based on the mid-year count done in the month of August. Changes in entitlement will take effect October 1.
  - 4.2.8.2. For the purposes of calculating representation to the SGEU Convention, the Provincial Council shall vary a Sector's entitlement when the Sector's

membership changes due to management-initiated restructuring or upon certification of new bargaining units.

#### 4.3. Election to External Organizations

- 4.3.1.1. A member, who is elected to full-time office in a Canadian municipal, provincial or federal legislative body, or to a full-time position in the labour movement, shall be considered a member in good standing, provided that they remit to the Union a sum equivalent to normal union dues on earnings from such full-time position.

#### 4.4. Lay-Off

- 4.4.1. A member on temporary layoff, having recall rights to their former employment, or a member who retains re-employment rights within a bargaining unit of the Union shall be considered a member in good standing, without payment of dues. Such a member shall remain a member in good standing without payment of dues for the period for which the recall or re-employment rights are in force, or a period of three (3) years, whichever is the lesser.

#### 4.5. Leave of Absence

- 4.5.1. A member on approved leave of absence from employment within a bargaining unit of the Union may be eligible to remain a member in good standing provided they remit dues to the Union on any employer paid wages or salary during the period of leave.

#### 4.6. Termination under Grievance

- 4.6.1. A member whose employment has been terminated, but who has challenged such termination through a grievance sanctioned and approved by the Union, shall be considered a member in good standing without payment of dues, provided they pay dues on any back pay or other award arising from said grievance.

#### 4.7. Transfer from another Union

- 4.7.1. Where, as a result of relocation of employment between organizations, an employee who was a member of another union becomes a member of a bargaining unit of the Union, and the terms and conditions of such transfer have been approved by the Union, such member shall be granted the status of member in good standing of the Union, subject to the conditions of Article 4.2 above.

#### 4.8. Associate Membership

4.8.1. The Provincial Council may admit into Associate Membership status such other persons or categories as in its discretion it feels is necessary and desirable in the interests of such persons and categories of the Union and shall prescribe the terms and conditions upon which admission is based, including the setting of an annual fee which may be a uniform fee or variable as the circumstances may require.

4.8.2. Where, as a result of the relocations of employment between organizations or retirement, an employee who was a member of a bargaining unit of the Union becomes a member of another union or retires, such member shall no longer be considered a member in good standing, but shall be eligible for associate membership, and may be granted such other non-voting privileges as may be granted by the Provincial Council or a Sector/Local of the Union.

#### 4.9. Other Membership

4.9.1. The Provincial Council may enroll, as members of the Union, employees for whom the Union is not the certified bargaining agent and determine the rights of such members within the organization, subject to ratification at the next following Convention.

#### 4.10. No Discrimination

Membership in the Union and the services of the Union to its members shall be provided without discrimination by reason of race, creed, religion, colour, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, disability, physical size or weight, age, nationality, ancestry, place of origin, political affiliation, or place of employment.

4.10.1.

4.10.2. Membership in the Union and the services of the Union shall be provided without personal harassment.

#### 4.11. Provincial Life Membership

4.11.1. It is understood that when making nominations and granting Life Membership, it is the highest honour the Union can bestow, and criteria must be of a high standard.

4.11.2. Criteria

4.11.2.1. When a member who passes away while being active in SGEU and has met the criteria set out in 4.11.2 shall automatically become a life member. This honor shall be bestowed upon the closest relative where possible.

- 4.11.2.2. At least ten (10) years' membership in good standing in the Union.
- 4.11.2.3. Must have served the Union in various capacities at the provincial and/or national level (e.g. Provincial Council, Bargaining Committee, Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) Convention, Executive and/or committees, National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) and Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Conventions and/or committees).
- 4.11.2.4. Participation in progressive social movements at the community or provincial level.
- 4.11.2.5. Must have been an active Union steward for at least eight (8) years.
- 4.11.2.6. Must have served in various capacities at the sector/local level.
- 4.11.2.7. Not actively employed in an out of scope position or elected into a role which may place them in a conflict of interest with SGEU.
- 4.11.2.8. **Shall not hold an elected position within the Union structure, nor serve as a delegate of the Union.**
  
- 4.11.3. Provincial Life Member – Roles and Responsibilities
- 4.11.3.1. Shall be **eligible to serve as a** representative on behalf of the Union, to any organization or outside body.
- 4.11.3.2. May attend Union meetings upon invitation and shall have voice at the courtesy of the Chair, but shall not be allowed to enter into debate, make motions, or vote.
- 4.11.3.3. Shall be free of the regular dues assessment.
- 4.11.3.4. Shall receive all Union publications free of charge.
- 4.11.3.5. Shall be eligible to participate in all social activities sponsored by the Provincial Council.
  
- 4.11.4. Provincial Life Membership Selection
- 4.11.4.1. The Provincial Council shall establish a three (3) person committee to review nominations from Sectors for Provincial Life Membership, such nominations to be submitted to the SGEU Administration Office prior to January 15th or the first working day following January 15th, if that date is a Saturday, Sunday or statutory holiday. This Committee may propose three (3) nominees for Provincial Life Membership to Convention.
- 4.11.4.2. Such recommendation, together with qualifications of the nominee(s) shall appear in the proceedings of the Annual Convention.
- 4.11.4.3. Nominee(s) put forward to Convention by the Provincial Council shall be elected by secret ballot vote and shall receive a clear two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting delegates at the Annual Convention to have a Provincial Life Membership conferred upon them.
  
- 4.12. Sector/Local Life Membership
- 4.12.1. Sector/Local Life Membership may be conferred by the Sector/Local Executive, on any member or past member for meritorious service to their Sector/ Local.

#### 4.13. Honourary Membership

- 4.13.1. It is understood that when making nominations and granting Honourary Membership, it is a special honour and recognition from the SGEU leadership and membership for trade unionists who have set high standards, who have been either an activist member of another union, or an activist member of SGEU, or both.
- 4.13.2. Subject to Articles 4.13.3 and 4.13.4, Honourary Membership is dedicated for persons who are not SGEU members, who are still active in the labour movement, and who are not at the point of retirement and therefore nomination for Provincial Life Membership may restrict their future activity in SGEU.
- 4.13.3. Eligibility
  - 4.13.3.1. Those who have provided exemplary service to a trade union other than SGEU and who are no longer active in that union as an elected representative or staff person; and/or
  - 4.13.3.2. Past SGEU members who were active and provided leadership within SGEU during the time of their membership and who are now active in another union either as an elected representative or staff representative; and/or
  - 4.13.3.3. SGEU members who have been elected as Provincial Life Members may not be nominated for Honourary Membership. However, Honourary Members may be nominated for Provincial Life Membership at the point they retire from active service in SGEU and/or other unions.
- 4.13.4. Criteria – Subject to Article 4.13.3
  - 4.13.4.1. At least ten (10) years' membership in good standing in SGEU or ten (10) years' membership in another trade union.
  - 4.13.4.2. Must have served SGEU or another union in various elected and/or staff capacities at the provincial and/or national level.
  - 4.13.4.3. Active participation in progressive social movements at the community, provincial, national, or international level.
  - 4.13.4.4. Must have served in various capacities at the Sector/Local level, including as an active SGEU steward for at least eight (8) years.
- 4.13.5. Conditions of Honourary Membership – Subject to Article 4.13.5.7
  - 4.13.5.1. Shall not hold an elected or staff position within SGEU.
  - 4.13.5.2. Shall not be a delegate or representative on behalf of SGEU to any organization or outside body.
  - 4.13.5.3. Shall be free of the regular dues assessment.
  - 4.13.5.4. Shall receive all SGEU publications free of charge.
  - 4.13.5.5. Shall be eligible to participate in all Provincial Council sponsored social activities.

- 4.13.5.6. May attend SGEU meetings upon invitation and shall have voice at the courtesy of the chair but shall not be allowed to enter into debate, make motions, or vote.
- 4.13.5.7. An Honourary Member who renews membership in or becomes a member or staff person of SGEU, shall:
- 4.13.5.8. Not be governed by the provisions above during the time of their membership; and
- 4.13.5.9. Be returned automatically to the provisions above at the point they are no longer a member or staff person of SGEU.
  
- 4.13.6. Nomination Process
- 4.13.6.1. Will be accepted from Sectors for those nominee(s) who have been activists in SGEU as defined by Article 4.13.3.2.
- 4.13.6.2. Will be accepted from the Provincial Council for those nominee(s) who have been activists in other unions as defined by Article 4.13.3.2.
- 4.13.6.3. Must be received by the SGEU Provincial Office by the same deadline as that required of Constitutional Resolutions under Article 10.4.
  
- 4.13.7. Selection Process
- 4.13.7.1. The Provincial Council shall establish a three (3) person committee to review nominations for Honourary Membership from Sectors and from the Provincial Council. Such nominations are to be submitted prior to January 15th, or the first working day following January 15th, if that date is a Saturday, Sunday or statutory holiday.
- 4.13.7.2. The Committee may propose up to two (2) nominees for Honourary Membership to Convention.
- 4.13.7.3. Such recommendation(s), together with qualifications of the nominee(s) shall appear in the Proceedings of the Annual Convention.
- 4.13.7.4. Nominee(s) put forward to Convention by the selection committee shall be elected by secret ballot vote and shall receive a clear two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting delegates at the Annual Convention to have an Honourary Membership conferred upon them.
  
- 4.14. Conflict of Interest
- 4.14.1. A member on approved leave of absence or union leave from employment within a bargaining unit of the Union and accepting a permanent staffing position as a SGEU staff member shall be deemed to have resigned from all elected positions within SGEU.
- 4.14.2. A member on approved leave of absence from employment within a bargaining unit of the Union and accepting a permanent out of scope position shall be deemed to have resigned from all elected positions within SGEU.

- 4.14.3. Except as otherwise provided, a member on approved leave of absence or union leave from employment within a bargaining unit of the Union and accepting a term staffing position as an SGEU staff member for a term of six months or more shall be deemed to have taken a leave of absence from all elected positions within SGEU.
- 4.14.4. A member who has been appointed or accepted a staffing position in an out of scope role shall be deemed to have taken a leave of absence from all elected positions with SGEU for the length of their appointment.  
(Interpretation of this Article can be found at Article 4.3.3 of the SGEU Policy Manual)
- 4.14.5. A member who has accepted a staff position as a SGEU staff shall be deemed to have no voice or vote or attend the portion of the membership meeting that deals with issues concerning USW 9841 as long as they are in the Staff position.
- 4.15. Role of Ex-Officio
- 4.15.1 Members holding ex-officio positions do so by virtue of holding another office that confers this status explicitly. When they vacate the office they also vacate the ex-officio position.
- 4.15.2 Provincial ex-officio position must be established through the authority of either the SGEU Constitution or the SGEU Policy Manual.
- 4.15.3 Sector and Local ex-officio positions must be established through Sector or Local Bylaws.
- 4.15.4 Ex-officio positions have voice but no vote except for the exceptions as indicated in Policy Article 4.1.1.2.

## **ARTICLE 5            SECTORS**

- 5.1. Sector Organization
- 5.1.1. The Union shall be divided into Sectors, each based upon the respective commonality of service delivery, funding provisions, mandated criteria or legislated structures of the member bargaining units.
- 5.1.1.1. The Union will be composed of the following sectors:
1. Public Service
  2. Crown
  3. Health
  4. Education
  5. Community Service
  6. Retail Regulatory

- 5.1.1.2. The Administration Committee will assign new bargaining units to a sector upon certification.
- 5.1.2. In developing structures and policies, Sectors/Locals shall strive to ensure gender equity and participation of all equity-seeking groups by seeking to remove barriers to participation in the Union.
- 5.1.3. Sectors shall be comprised of those members who belong to a bargaining unit which is designated to a specific Sector.
- 5.1.4. Where not less than five hundred (500) members of the Union so desire, the Annual Convention may authorize them to form a Sector and shall define which bargaining units such a Sector shall govern. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any organized group of employees who have merged or who may merge with the Union, may upon the approval of the Provincial Council, and ratified at the Annual Convention, preserve their identity in the form of a sector of the Union.
- 5.1.5. Each Sector shall elect its own Executive, adopt bylaws for the proper governance of the Sector, report to the Annual Convention and attend to all matters of local interest, but shall remain in every respect, fully responsible to the Union within the framework of this Constitution. The President, Vice-Presidents and members of the Provincial Council shall be ex-officio members of all sector executives.
- 5.1.6. Each Sector shall ensure that its' member bargaining unit(s) elect bargaining committees to bargain collective agreements on behalf of the members of those units and enforce agreements once reached.
- 5.1.7. Each Sector shall provide, through the bargaining committees or another committee elected for that purpose, for the initial handling of grievances arising from that unit and for making of recommendations to the Screening Committee on whether grievances should be pursued to arbitration. The Public Service shall have its own Public Service Grievance Screening Committee.
- 5.1.8. Each Sector shall provide, in consultation with the Provincial Council and Education Officer, education as may be necessary for the members of a bargaining unit or the Sector, including regular training on specific collective agreements.
- 5.1.9. Each Sector shall maintain a system of stewards in Locals within the Sector.



- 5.1.10. Each Sector shall maintain communication and information sharing between all bargaining units to ensure co-operative bargaining strategies and defense of collective agreements.
- 5.1.11. Sectors shall be affiliated to the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour. Each Sector shall specify, in its bylaws, how it shall affiliate to the SFL.
- 5.1.12. SGEU shall be affiliated with local labour councils/committees through Sectors/Locals. Each Sector/Local shall have the right to disaffiliate or withhold dues from their local labour council following a two thirds (2/3) vote, at their respective Annual/Biennial General Meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose, in favour of such action. SGEU strongly encourages all Sectors/Locals to maintain their affiliation and to develop a communication network among Sectors/Locals within the boundaries of the respective labour council. Sector/Local bylaws shall identify the executive officer who is responsible to ensure that said affiliation is current and to report back to Provincial Council through the Sector Vice-President.
- 5.1.13. Each Sector/Local Executive shall approve their third-party-reviewed/audited year-end financial statements annually. The approved year-end financial statements **along with year-end statement of investments** shall be forwarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President immediately no later than March 31<sup>st</sup> following the SGEU fiscal year-end (December 31<sup>st</sup>). In situations where Sectors/Locals have biennial general meetings, the Sector/Local is still required to provide the financial statements annually to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>. Failure to provide year-end financial statements **and statement of investments** as defined above will result in per capita refund payments being withheld, and not held within, until such time as year-end financial statements are provided to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.
- 5.1.13.1. Sectors/Locals shall provide the Vice-President/Chair of the Sector financial statements that have been approved by the Local Executive and which have been reviewed by an approved individual who is independent of the financial statement preparation. Such approved statements shall be forwarded to the Vice-President/Chair of the Sector no later than March 31<sup>st</sup> following the SGEU fiscal year-end (December 31<sup>st</sup>).
- 5.1.14. Each Sector/Local shall present their third-party reviewed/audited statement to their membership at their Annual General Meeting/Biennial General Meeting.
- 5.1.15. Locals shall be comprised of those members who work within the geographic boundaries of that local. The member shall notify the Provincial office, in writing, of which local they wish to belong to, either to a work local or home address local. The Provincial office will in turn advise the affected Locals.

- 5.1.16. Bargaining Unit locals shall be comprised of members who are part of bargaining unit or units on which the local is based.
- 5.2. Oath of Office (Sectors)
  - 5.2.1. Following Sector/Local elections, all elected officials shall signify in writing or orally, their acceptance of the following:

"In accepting nomination, I ..... do hereby sincerely pledge my word to the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union that I will truly and faithfully perform the duties of my office in accordance with the SGEU Constitution, Code of Ethics, Statement of Equality, the Policies and the Bylaws of the Union. I will safeguard and protect the assets of the Union and return all assets at the close of my term in office."
- 5.3. Start-Up Grant
  - 5.3.1. On the formation of a Sector, the Provincial Council may make a grant to cover organizational expenses.
- 5.4. Per Capita Refunds
  - 5.4.1. Per capita refunds are a percentage of dues returned to a sector/local. The process for determining per capita payments within the respective sectors shall be defined in the Sector structures. The amount of per capita refunds shall be set out as policy as approved at the Annual Convention, subject to Article 4.2.7.1 and Article 5.1.13.
- 5.5. Steward Organization
  - 5.5.1. The President of the Union shall be an ex-officio Chief Steward of the Union.
    - 5.5.1.1. All Negotiating Committee members shall be considered to be stewards within their bargaining units.
  - 5.5.2. Stewards, Executive Officers, Bargaining Committee Members and Provincial Council Members shall attend Leadership Development courses as they are provided.
  - 5.5.3. Members within a steward district shall elect a steward every two (2) years and whenever a vacancy occurs and have regularly scheduled membership meetings to discuss workplace and/or union issues.

- 5.5.4. Elections shall be organized by the Sector/Local to take place in the designated districts during May or June, unless otherwise directed by specific Sector/Local bylaws.
- 5.5.5. The Sectors Vice-President or designate shall ensure that stewards are registered, by numbered districts, and chief stewards by numbered zones, with Membership Records within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the elections and ensure that a proper steward structure system is maintained within the Union. Membership Records, Bargaining Unit Chairs and Sector Vice-Presidents shall be advised by the Local Secretaries of the results of steward elections within the Local or Bargaining Unit within 14 days of the election occurring.
- 5.5.6. If a steward vacancy occurs during the two-year term, an election shall be called by the chief steward, within thirty (30) days of the vacancy occurring. The steward elected will serve the unexpired term created by the vacancy.
- 5.5.7. Chief Stewards shall be elected for each zone, representing approximately ten (10) districts, in accordance with the bylaws of the Sector/Local. In the event that a chief steward vacancy occurs in a zone, it shall be filled in accordance with the Sector/Local bylaws.
- 5.5.8. Chief Stewards and stewards shall endeavour to complete the LD 10, 11, 20, and 30 as provided by the provincial Education and Learning Development Committee within the time limits set out in Article 17 of the Policy Manual. Other elected officials of the Union shall endeavour to complete the LD 10, 11, and 20, as provided by the provincial Education and Learning Development Committee within the time limits set out in Article 17 of the Policy Manual.
- 5.6. Occupational Health Committees
  - 5.6.1. Worker representatives on Occupational Health Committees shall be elected on a biennial basis, by the workers they represent.
  - 5.6.2. Stewards shall be responsible for conducting elections for Occupational Health Committees.
  - 5.6.3. At least one (1) steward or their designate shall be a member of every Occupational Health Committee.
  - 5.6.4. The worker co-chairperson shall be elected by the worker members of the Committee.
  - 5.6.5. Vacancies on such committees shall be filled by election by the members in the workplace.

- 5.6.6. Any member of an Occupational Health Committee may be recalled as per Constitutional Article 8.
- 5.6.7. Bargaining units may adopt bylaws to meet specific circumstances, but bargaining unit bylaws shall not be inconsistent with this Article.
- 5.6.8. SGEU members shall not act as the management co-chair or as a member of the management side of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee unless the workplace has no out of scope managers working at it.
- 5.7. Union/Management Committees (UMC)
  - 5.7.1. The chief steward or their designate shall be the Union co-chair of the local workplace UMC.
  - 5.7.2. The remaining union representatives/alternates on the local workplace UMC shall be elected from among the stewards.
  - 5.7.3. If the number of stewards and UMC alternates is not sufficient to fill all the local workplace UMC positions, nominations/elections of any member in good standing shall be sought.
- 5.8. Any meetings may be held virtually when deemed necessary with appropriate rationale. Meetings and electronic voting may only be held virtually when the principles of the constitution, policy and bylaws are upheld.

## ARTICLE 6      PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

### 6.1.    How Constituted

6.1    The President, Sector Vice-Presidents, NUPGE Vice-President, SFL Vice-President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Sector representatives shall be deemed members of Provincial Council.

### 6.2.    Sector Representation

6.2.1    Each Sector shall have one (1) representative for each four hundred (400) members or greater portion thereof.

6.2.2    Notwithstanding Article 6.2., each Sector shall have a minimum of three (3) representatives.

6.2.3    The Sector Vice-President position is included as part of each Sector's entitlement on the Provincial Council.

### 6.3.    Provincial Council Officers

6.3.1    The Provincial Council Table Officers of the Union shall be the President, the 1st Vice-President, the NUPGE Vice-President, the SFL Vice-President, the Indigenous Vice-President and the Sector Vice-Presidents.

6.3.1.1. The President, NUPGE Vice-President, 1st Vice-President, NUPGE Vice-President Alternate, SFL Vice-President, SFL Vice-President Alternate, Indigenous Vice-President, and Indigenous Vice-President alternate shall be elected at the Union's Annual Convention for a two (2) year term from and by the duly credentialed delegates.

6.3.2    The President, NUPGE Vice-President, NUPGE Vice-President Alternate, SFL Vice-President and SFL Vice-President Alternate shall be elected in even numbered years. When the President is a male, the NUPGE Vice- President and the NUPGE Vice-President Alternate shall be a female. When the President is a male, the SFL Vice-President and the SFL Vice-President Alternate shall be female.

6.3.3    Candidates running for election in any **Officer position, provided it is not an Officer alternate position, who are defeated** shall be allowed to have their names stand in subsequent Officer elections provided that this complies with any **position criteria**. Candidates who choose not to run for alternate positions do not give up the right to run for other positions.

6.3.4    The 1st Vice-President and Indigenous Vice-President, and Indigenous Vice-President alternate shall be elected in odd numbered years.

- 6.3.5 Vice-Presidents and representatives of the Sectors/Locals shall be elected to office for a two (2) year term. The election process and timelines shall be determined in the bylaws of each Sector/Local.
- 6.3.5.1 Sectors shall elect an alternate to their Vice-Presidents, who shall have voice and vote in the absence of their Vice-President. The alternate to the Vice-Presidents shall be elected for the same term as their respective Sector Vice-President, as per Article 6.3.1.4.
- 6.3.6 Only members in good standing shall be eligible for nomination. The election shall be conducted by secret ballot.
- 6.3.7 The Education Sector and the Retail Regulatory Sector shall elect their members in odd-numbered years. The Crown Sector, Health Sector and Community Services Sector shall elect their members in even-numbered years, and the Public Service Sector shall elect its members in both even and odd-numbered years, as laid out in their sector bylaws.
- 6.4 Vacancies – Officers
- 6.4.1 In the event that the President position becomes vacant during the term of office, the 1st Vice-President shall act in the vacant position until the next Annual Convention. The election at the Convention shall be for the remainder of the term.
- 6.4.2 In the event that the 1st Vice-President position becomes vacant during the term of office, the Provincial Council shall elect, from among its members, a representative who shall act in the vacant position until the next Annual Convention. The election at Convention shall be for the remainder of the term.
- 6.4.3 In the event that the NUPGE Vice-President, Indigenous Vice-President, or the SFL Vice-President positions become vacant during the term of office, the respective duly elected alternate shall act in the vacant position until the completion of the term. The subsequent alternate election for the position shall be at the Annual Convention if there is more than one (1) year left in the term or from the Provincial Council if there is less than one (1) year left in the term.
- 6.4.4 In the event a Sector Vice-President position becomes vacant during the term of office, and no alternate has been named, the respective sector shall elect, pursuant to that sector's bylaws, from amongst its members, a representative who shall act as Sector Vice-President until the next Sector Annual/Biennial General Meeting.

## 6.5 Nominations and Elections – Provincial Council

6.5.1 Each Sector/Local of the Union shall elect a Provincial Council member(s) from amongst the members of its Sector/Local for a two (2) year term.

6.5.2 Provincial Council member(s) shall have a designated alternate(s), to be elected at the same time as the Provincial Council member(s) is elected. Provincial Council alternates will have voice and vote at Provincial Council meetings when replacing the Provincial Council member. Provincial Council alternates will be elected pursuant to Article 6.5.3.

6.5.3 Members in good standing in the Union shall be eligible for nomination. Eligibility for nomination to the Provincial Council shall be at the option of the sectors/locals. The Sectors/Locals shall enact bylaws mandating gender equality for elected positions wherever reasonable. The election of the Provincial Council member(s) shall be conducted by secret ballot; voting to take place during a general or annual/biennial meeting of the sector/local, or by polling stations at the workplace or by mailing a ballot to each member.

6.5.4 Following the election, the successful Provincial Council Members Elect shall take the following Oath, in the presence of the members of their sector:

"In accepting nomination, I ..... do hereby sincerely pledge my word to the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union that I will truly and faithfully perform the duties of my office in accordance with the SGEU Constitution, Code of Ethics, Statement of Equality, the Policies and the Bylaws of the Union. I will safeguard and protect the assets of the Union and return all assets at the close of my term in office."

6.5.5 The Provincial Council member elect shall be an observer at the next Annual Convention. This does not preclude the Provincial Council elect from running as a sector/local delegate to convention.

6.5.6 The Provincial Council Member Elect shall assume office at the close of Convention.

## 6.6. Vacancies - Provincial Council

6.6.1 The Office of a Provincial Council Member shall become vacant automatically if a member is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without obtaining leave of absence from the President and/or if they move to another sector other than the one in which they were elected.

6.6.2 If such a vacancy occurs prior to Convention in any year, the sector shall be responsible to replace the member for the unexpired term involved. The sector may do so by conducting a special election as provided for in Article 6.3 or by naming an alternate who was previously elected for the purpose of filling a vacancy during the course of the regular annual/biennial elections as conducted under Article 6.3 of this Constitution.

## 6.7 Meetings - Provincial Council

6.7.1 The Provincial Council shall meet at least quarterly, beginning with a meeting following the Annual Convention, at a time and place to be designated by the President, or in this officer's absence, by the 1st Vice-President.

6.7.2 Emergency/special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President or in this Officer's absence, by the 1st Vice-President or on the written request of at least five (5) members of the Provincial Council. Due to the emergent nature of these meetings the agenda will be adopted at the commencement of the meeting. Should such a meeting be called for by a written request of at least five (5) members, that request shall be published at the emergency/special meeting.

6.7.3 Fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of the members of Provincial Council shall constitute a quorum.

6.7.4 Any SGEU member in good standing may attend any meeting of the Provincial Council as an observer without voice and vote. The privilege of attending the meeting is at the courtesy of the Chairperson.

## 6.8 Duties and Responsibilities - Provincial Council

6.8.1 To manage the affairs of the Union between Annual Conventions, in accordance with decisions and policies laid down by the Annual Convention, and at all times to act with due regard for the democratic process which is the right of Sectors/Locals/Bargaining Units to manage their internal affairs without interference.

6.8.2 To be responsible for the formation of all Provincial Council Standing Committees, as per Article 6.10.

6.8.3 To decide the terms and conditions of employment of the President and 1st Vice-President.

6.8.4 To recommend to the Annual Convention the appointment of Auditors.

6.8.5 To convene emergency conventions when deemed necessary.



- 6.8.6 To conclude interim arrangements with other parties or groups in the name of the Union, in regard to determination of bargaining unit(s), sharing of dues, representation on the Provincial Council and at conventions, and any other matters necessary to bringing such parties or groups within the family of the Union. Such arrangements shall be subject to ratification at the next Convention.
- 6.8.7 To develop policies for the good order and governance of the Union, as well as policies relating to bargaining and the coordination of common bargaining issues.
- 6.8.8 To gather and distribute information from bargaining units and keep the membership informed of bargaining issues.
- 6.8.9 To represent the Union in contract negotiations with the employees' union (USW Local 9841), subject to the direction and ratification by the Provincial Council. The SGEU Management Negotiating Committee will include three (3) members elected from the body of the Provincial Council.
- 6.9 Duties of Table Officers
  - 6.9.1 President
    - 6.9.1.1 The President, under the direction of the Provincial Council, shall:
      - 6.9.1.1.1 Be the full-time salaried Senior Executive Officer of the Union and exercise supervision over the strategic affairs of the Union, including mentorship, promoting the image and reputation of the Union, and be responsible for approval of Union publications.
      - 6.9.1.1.2 Preside at all meetings of the Provincial Council, Administration Committee and the Annual Convention of the Union.
      - 6.9.1.1.3 Represent SGEU on the NUPGE Executive Board and as Vice-President of the SFL.
      - 6.9.1.1.4 Be a member of all committees and boards, including bargaining committees.
      - 6.9.1.1.5 Act as a signatory on the year-end audit and financial statement and as a signatory for benefit plans. Act as one of the primary signing authorities.
      - 6.9.1.1.6 Designate one (1) of the Vice-Presidents to assume all duties and powers in the absence of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.
      - 6.9.1.1.7 To recommend, in consultation with the Administration Committee, to the Minister-in-Charge of the Public Service Superannuation Board the name of one (1) of our Union members to act as a member and representative of the Public Service on the Public Service Superannuation Board.
      - 6.9.1.1.8 To recommend, in consultation with the Administration Committee, to the Minister-in-Charge of the Public Employees' Pension Plan the name of one of our Union members to act as a SGEU member/representative of the

- Public Service on the Public Employees' Pension Plan. This member/representative shall serve a four (4) year term.
- 6.9.1.1.9 Act as chief spokesperson for the Union on policy matters and major issues, except where written authorization has been delegated to an appropriate SGEU Officer.
  - 6.9.1.1.10 Have the authority to examine all financial records of SGEU including that of any Sector or Local or delegate this authority to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President or one of the Vice-Presidents.
  - 6.9.1.1.11 In the situation of suspected fraudulent activity, wrong doings or potential decertification, is authorized to seize bank accounts and authorize new signing authority.
  - 6.9.1.1.12 Perform any and all duties as directed by Convention or Provincial Council.
  - 6.9.1.1.13 Keep the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Vice-Presidents informed of matters necessary to assume the duties of the President.
  - 6.9.1.1.14 Be the chief representative of the Union in relations to other unions and be the senior delegate of the Union to Labour Movement meetings, conferences and conventions.
  - 6.9.1.1.15 Enforce due observance of and interpret the Constitution.
  - 6.9.1.1.16 Develop, implement and maintain an organizing strategy in consultation with Sector Vice-Presidents and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.
  - 6.9.1.1.17 Be one of the Directors of all subsidiary companies that have been established by the Provincial Council. The President, along with the, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and the Director of Finance, shall be responsible for the operation of all subsidiary companies.
- 6.9.2 Vice-Presidents
    - 6.9.2.1 Sector Vice-Presidents, the NUPGE Vice-President, the SFL Vice-President and the Indigenous Vice-President shall assume the duties of President as required or designated. Each Vice-President shall visit each bargaining unit, local or workplace as requested.
  - 6.9.3 SGEU NUPGE Vice-President
    - 6.9.3.1 The NUPGE Vice-President shall represent SGEU on the Executive Board of NUPGE.
  - 6.9.4 SGEU SFL Vice-President
    - 6.9.4.1 The SFL Vice-President shall represent SGEU on the Executive Board of the SFL.
  - 6.9.5 SGEU Indigenous Vice-President
    - 6.9.5.1 The Indigenous Vice-President shall represent the Indigenous committee and SGEU on the SFL Indigenous Committee.
    - 6.9.5.2 Shall represent and advocate for all Indigenous members of SGEU at the Provincial Council and Admin committee levels.

- 6.9.5.3 Work with the SGEU Organizer, when required, to assist with organizing of Indigenous communities and workplaces in a respectful and culturally appropriate manner.
- 6.9.5.4 Look for ways that SGEU can become more visible in Indigenous communities by attending and supporting (where budget permits) events, celebrations, committees etc. and bring forward possible partnerships.
- 6.9.5.5 Assist with the development, planning, and delivery of educational experiences which foster understanding of Indigenous histories, the impact of colonialism on Indigenous communities and workers, and Indigenous protocols. This may include but not be limited to the further development of LD 70: Unionism on Turtle Island.
- 6.9.6 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President
- 6.9.6.1 The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall report to the President and Provincial Council and shall:
  - 6.9.6.1.1 Be a full time salaried Financial Officer of the Union with authority to oversee all financial matters of SGEU.
  - 6.9.6.1.2 The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the President's absence.
  - 6.9.6.1.3 The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Director of Finance shall ensure a proposed annual budget is prepared with any revisions made by the Administration Committee, to Provincial Council and then to the Annual Convention.
  - 6.9.6.1.4 Act as a signatory on the year-end audit and financial statements. Act as one of the primary signing authorities.
  - 6.9.6.1.5 Supervise the expenditures of the Union to ensure compliance with the budget.
  - 6.9.6.1.6 Ensure adherence to all financial policies affecting elected members and staff.
  - 6.9.6.1.7 Ensure that a complete financial statement of the affairs of the Union is prepared for each fiscal year, by a firm of chartered accountants as selected by the Administration Committee, and shall provide that statement to the Provincial Council, Convention and any member in good standing, on request.
  - 6.9.6.1.8 Be responsible for reviewing the approved financial statements of Sectors/Locals every year. A summary of these financial statements shall be provided to the Provincial Council and then to the Annual Convention by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President. This will be done in consultation with the President and may be delegated to the Sector representative or Sector chairperson.
  - 6.9.6.1.9 Ensure the keeping of an accurate record of proceedings of all meetings of the Provincial Council.
  - 6.9.6.1.10 Ensure the maintenance of all records, attendance to correspondence, papers, etc. pertaining to the efficient conduct of Union affairs.
  - 6.9.6.1.11 Ensure the collection of all dues, subscriptions or other monies due the Union, and the deposit of all funds in an authorized depository of the Union.

- 6.9.6.1.12 Ensure the proper disbursement by duly authorized countersigned cheques in payment of the just debts or other expenses of the Union.
- 6.9.6.1.13 Be one of the Directors of all subsidiary companies that have been established by the Provincial Council. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, along with the President, and Director of Finance shall be responsible for the operation of all subsidiary companies.
- 6.9.7 Executive Director
  - 6.9.7.1 Under the direction of the President and reporting to Provincial Council, the Executive Director shall be responsible for:
    - 6.9.7.2 The day-to-day operations of the affairs of the Union;
    - 6.9.7.3 The recruitment and direct supervision of management staff in the conduct of the business of the Union;
      - 6.9.7.3.1 The efficient management of the Union's buildings and property;
      - 6.9.7.3.2 Being one of the officials countersigning all documents, cheques, etc. required in the conduct of union business;
      - 6.9.7.3.3 Reporting to the Annual Convention and Provincial Council;
      - 6.9.7.3.4 The performance of such other duties as may be required by Provincial Council;
      - 6.9.7.3.5 Supervision of the LTD Claimant Advocate.
    - 6.9.7.4 The Executive Director shall be the lead spokesperson at the USW (Local 9841) negotiation table.
- 6.9.8 Auditors
  - 6.9.8.1 The Auditors shall carry out such examination of the books and records of the Union annually, and certify the Year End Financial Statements for presentation to the 6.9.7.2 Provincial Council and Annual Convention.
  - 6.9.8.2 The Provincial Council may determine it necessary, from time to time, to have the books audited between Conventions.
- 6.10 Provincial Council Standing Committees
  - 6.10.1 The Provincial Council Standing Committees will be:
    - 6.10.1.1 Administration
    - 6.10.1.2 Anti-Privatization
    - 6.10.1.3 Education and Learning Development
    - 6.10.1.4 Indigenous
    - 6.10.1.5 Health and Welfare Trust
    - 6.10.1.6 Human Rights/Equity
    - 6.10.1.7 Long Term Disability (LTD)
    - 6.10.1.8 Membership/Constitution and Legislation (MC&L)
    - 6.10.1.9 Occupational Health and Safety
    - 6.10.1.10 Provincial Grievance Appeals
    - 6.10.1.11 Women's

- 6.10.1.12 Provincial Council Appeal
- 6.10.1.13 and such other committees and delegations as required, except as provided in Article 7 (Bargaining Committees).
- 6.10.2 Term of Committees  
The term of Provincial Council Standing Committees shall begin at the first meeting of the Committee immediately following convention.

## **ARTICLE 7        BYLAWS AND BARGAINING GUIDELINES**

### **7.1            Bylaws**

Each Sector/Local requires a set of bylaws reflecting the current SGEU Sector/Local Bylaws template. All Sectors/Locals will submit their bylaws for review and approval to the Membership/Constitution and Legislation Committee (MC&L).

The sector chair/vice-president shall be responsible to ensure all Sectors/Locals submit bylaws to the MC&L Committee for approval.

#### **7.1.1        Name**

7.1.1.1 All bylaws will contain a clause stating the name of the Sector as determined by the Annual Convention.

#### **7.1.2        Fiscal Year**

7.1.2.1 All Sector/Local bylaws will have a clause defining the end of the fiscal year as December 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **7.1.3        Financial Statement**

7.1.3.1 As outlined in Constitution Article 5.1.13, all Sectors/Locals are to provide the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President with financial statements.

### **7.2            Bargaining Committees**

7.2.1 Each bargaining unit of SGEU shall have an elected bargaining committee.

7.2.2 Bargaining units may combine for the purposes of bargaining into a provincial or other structure and may elect a single central bargaining committee to represent them.

### **7.3            Bargaining Guidelines**

7.3.1 Each bargaining unit requires a set of Bargaining Guidelines. All bargaining units will submit their Bargaining Guidelines for review and approval by the Membership/Constitution and Legislation Committee within sixty (60) days of any changes being ratified by the members of the unit or every 3 years, whichever comes first.

7.3.2 All bargaining guidelines not submitted to the MC&L committee for approval after January 1, 2004, must be revised to follow the current bargaining guidelines template as developed by the MC&L Committee.

7.3.3 The sector executive shall be responsible for developing bargaining guidelines following the Bargaining Guideline Template for any bargaining

unit in that sector that has not submitted bargaining guidelines to the MC&L committee for approval after January 1, 2004.

## 7.4 Checklist for Bargaining Guidelines

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### 7.4.2 Structure of Bargaining Unit

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- structure of
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#### 7.4.3.3 Bargaining/Negotiating Committee

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- 7.4.3.15 Amendments to Bargaining Guidelines
- method to submit amendments
  - how amendment becomes part of Bargaining Guidelines
- 7.4.3.16 Appendices
- APPENDIX A of the Bargaining Guidelines shall describe the Steward Structure (i.e. Locals, Zones, Districts).
- 7.5 How the Bargaining/Negotiating Committees are Constituted
- 7.5.1 The number of members on bargaining committees shall be:
- 7.5.1.1 For bargaining units of one to fifty (1-50) members – up to three (3) members on the bargaining committee.
- 7.5.1.2 For bargaining units of fifty-one to two hundred (51-200) members – three (3) or four (4) members on the bargaining committee.
- 7.5.1.3 For bargaining units of two hundred and one to five hundred (201-500) members - four (4) members on the bargaining committee.
- 7.5.1.4 For units of five hundred and one (501) or over - five (5) members on the bargaining committee.
- 7.5.1.5 For the PS/GE Agreement – one member of each of its components shall be a member of the Negotiating Committee as well as the Chair of the Negotiating Committee.
- 7.5.2 The Director(s) of Labour Relations shall assign Labour Relations Officer(s) and/or such other staff support as may be advisable to assist and advise bargaining committees.
- 7.5.3 Notwithstanding Article 7.6.1, bargaining committees may consist of a different number of members where distance considerations or special circumstances warrant it.

- 7.6 Guidelines of every Bargaining Unit shall contain the following:
- 7.6.1 Oath of Office (Bargaining Units)  
Members elected to bargaining committees and/or bargaining councils shall signify in writing or orally, their acceptance of the following:
- “In accepting nomination, I ..... do hereby sincerely pledge my word to the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union that I will truly and faithfully perform the duties of my office in accordance with the SGEU Constitution, Code of Ethics, Statement of Equality, the Policies and the Bylaws of the Union. I will safeguard and protect the assets of the Union and return all assets at the close of my term in office.”
- 7.6.2 Roles and Responsibilities
- 7.6.2.1 Bargaining committees shall represent their membership in dealings with the employer, and bargain on behalf of their members a collective agreement with their employer.
- 7.6.2.2 Bargaining committees shall be responsible for bargaining such matters as may arise after the signing of a collective agreement that require letters of understanding or contract amendments, for the implementation of their collective agreements and for the organizing and functioning of the proposals gathering process for their bargaining unit.
- 7.6.2.3 Bargaining committees shall be responsible for the organizing and functioning of the proposals gathering process for their bargaining unit.
- 7.6.2.4 Provide, through their bargaining committee or another committee elected for that purpose, for the initial handling of grievances arising from that Bargaining Unit and for the making of recommendations to the Screening Committee on whether grievances should proceed.
- 7.6.2.5 Provide, in consultation with and approval of the Provincial Council and Education Officer, education as may be necessary for the members of the unit.
- 7.6.2.6 In consultation with the sectors, maintain a steward system.
- 7.6.2.7 Undertake such further and other matters as may be directed by the membership.
- 7.6.3 Term of Office
- 7.6.3.1 Bargaining committees shall serve a term determined by the length of the collective agreement with their employer. Bargaining committees shall remain in place until a new committee is elected. Each time a new collective agreement is to be negotiated there should be an election of a bargaining committee unless the bargaining unit has an annual election policy.
- 7.6.3.2 Members of bargaining committees must be subject to a recall process as per Constitution Article 8.

- 7.6.4 Proposals Gathering
  - 7.6.4.1 Bargaining committees shall develop a proposals package for bargaining with their employer.
  - 7.6.4.2 Proposals packages shall be developed according to procedures approved by the bargaining unit and in keeping with Union policies, but methods of proposal gathering shall include:
    - 7.6.4.3 The right of individual members to submit proposals for the consideration of their fellow members within the bargaining unit or appropriate component thereof.
    - 7.6.4.4 Allowance for amendments or additions to the proposals package based on union policies, Provincial Council objectives or developments outside the bargaining unit.
    - 7.6.4.5 The proposals package shall be ratified by the membership of the bargaining unit or a representative body from that bargaining unit delegated with that authority by the bargaining unit.
- 7.6.5 Ratification
  - 7.6.5.1 All amendments to a collective agreement with the exception of legislative transfers, including letters of understanding, that affect the entire membership of a bargaining unit must be ratified by the members of that bargaining unit.
  - 7.6.5.2 Interim letters of understanding or amendments directly affecting only portions of the membership of a bargaining unit with the exception of legislative transfers, such as new classifications, must be ratified by those members as determined by the bargaining committee.
  - 7.6.5.3 A bargaining committee may apply to their Sector and the Administration Committee to waive the requirement for membership ratification of interim letters of understanding or amendments where the effects of the letters of understanding or amendments are not significant or where special circumstances exist. In such cases, members affected by this decision shall be notified of the waiver, in writing, by the bargaining unit affected. In the case of legislative transfers a waiver to not vote letters of understanding shall be the process.
  - 7.6.5.4 No employer offer or tentative agreement may be submitted to membership ratification unless the Sector and the Administration Committee has first approved the holding of a ratification vote.
  - 7.6.5.5 When ratification ballots are being counted, the bargaining committee shall ensure that a Provincial Council member, not representing that committee directly, is there as a scrutineer.
- 7.6.6 Strikes
  - 7.6.6.1 Only the SGEU President (or the SGEU Acting President whenever the President is not available), in consultation with the bargaining unit chair, is authorized to serve notice of Job Action/Strike Action to the employer on behalf of SGEU.

- 7.6.6.2 Prior to withdrawal of services by all or part of a bargaining unit, the bargaining committee shall conduct a vote by secret ballot.
- 7.6.6.3 The secret ballot vote shall be conducted at special meetings called for this purpose and/or mailed ballots.
- 7.6.6.4 Those members who vote in the bargaining unit concerned shall constitute a quorum, and the decision shall be 50% plus one of those voting.
- 7.6.6.5 If there is a withdrawal of services, without there being a secret ballot vote on the withdrawal, such withdrawal of services shall be deemed to be voluntary and not subject to discipline procedures.
- 7.6.6.6 The Provincial Council shall be kept informed on strike situations. The Provincial Council shall, at the request of the bargaining unit, assist by disseminating information, providing moral and financial support, as well as assistance with the planning, preparation and conduct of a strike.
- 7.6.6.7 Results of a strike ballot shall be released at the discretion of the bargaining committee.
- 7.6.6.8 When strike ballots are being counted, the bargaining committee shall ensure that a Provincial Council Member, not representing that Sector, is there as a scrutineer.
- 7.6.6.9 In the case of strike action, the regulations as laid down from time to time in the Strike Manual shall be adhered to.

## **ARTICLE 8        RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

8.1     A Sector/Local wishing to replace one (1) or more of its elected officials may do so subject to the following stipulations:

8.1.1     Petition Process

8.1.1.1   Recall must be petitioned for by 25% of the members who are represented by the person being recalled. The petition must outline the reasons for recall in clear concise language.

8.1.1.2   Upon receiving the duly signed petition, the elected official responsible for the person being recalled will call a meeting for that purpose. The notice of meeting must be advertised at least fourteen (14) days in advance. The notice must include the time, date, location and purpose.

8.1.1.3   The official facing recall shall receive a copy of the petition, reasons for the recall and notice of the meeting where the vote will take place. Such notice shall be at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

8.1.2     Recall Process

8.1.2.1   The official facing recall shall have the opportunity to present their position or response to the petition prior to the vote occurring.

8.1.2.2   The two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members in attendance shall be required to unseat the incumbent. Only those who are members of the committee/councils or delegates to the body that elected the person being recalled can vote on the recall.

8.1.2.3   Voting shall be done by secret ballot.

8.1.3     Vacancies

8.1.3.1   Vacancies created by a recall will be filled following the elected process for other vacant positions.

## **ARTICLE 9        SGEU ASSETS**

### **9.1            The Contingency Fund**

9.1.1        The SGEU Contingency Fund, shall receive credit for all interest earnings and capital gains accruing from such monies of the fund as may be invested. The Annual Convention may recommend additional sums of money be allocated to the fund from time to time.

9.1.2        The monies credited to this fund shall be deposited in the authorized depository under an account in the name of SGEU Contingency Fund.

9.1.3        Expenditures shall be made from the fund for routine administrative purposes and for special purposes as defined and declared by the Provincial Council.

### **9.2            The Defense Fund**

9.2.1        The SGEU Defense Fund shall receive credit for interest earnings and capital gains accruing from such monies of the fund as may be invested. The Annual Convention may recommend additional sums of money be allocated to the fund from time to time.

9.2.2        The monies credited to this fund shall be deposited in an authorized depository under an account in the name of the SGEU Defense Fund.

9.2.3        Expenditures shall be made from the Defense Fund for strike purposes or for defense of members through campaigns. All expenditures from the Defense Fund must be authorized by the Administration Committee or Provincial Council.

9.2.4        Provincial Council is authorized to access the Defense Fund, as may be needed, to fund the legal challenge against the Essential Services legislation.

### **9.3            Board of Trustees**

9.3.1        Board members shall be the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and three (3) other members which shall be elected by the Convention, two positions in even years and one position in the odd year. Nominees shall accept in person, or shall have indicated in writing, their willingness to accept nomination.

9.3.1.1      Two alternates will be elected at Convention in the even years and one in the odd years to avail themselves to the Committee should there be a vacancy or the inability for a member to attend the meeting.

9.3.2        The Chairperson of the Board shall be the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the Union.

- 9.3.3 Three (3) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.
- 9.3.4 Copies of the minutes of all meetings of the Board shall be filed with the Provincial Council at the next meeting of the Provincial Council.
- 9.3.5 The Board shall make an Annual Report to the Convention of all business transacted in connection with the Contingency Fund, the Defense Fund and the assets of the Union under its administration.
- 9.3.6 The function of the Board of Trustees shall be:
  - 9.3.6.1 To ensure the prudent investment of the monies of the Contingency and Defense Funds.
  - 9.3.6.2 To administer the assets of the Union.
  - 9.3.6.3 To hold the assets of the Union, as and when required, in trust for the membership, and report to and be responsible to the Provincial Council.

## ARTICLE 10      ANNUAL CONVENTION

### 10.1            Powers

10.1.1          The Annual Convention shall be the supreme governing body of the Union. Only the Convention shall have the authority to amend this Constitution. All sectors, committees and representative bodies within the Union shall be subordinate to Convention.

### 10.2            Dues

10.2.1          Subject to Article 10.4, the Annual Convention shall **set the** basic membership fees rate based on a percent of earnings **for the following fiscal year**.

10.2.2          The basic membership fee shall not include any benefit premiums, fines, levies, assessments, initiations, or any other type of contributions that may be required to be paid by the membership.

### 10.3            Time and Notice

10.3.1          The Annual Convention of the Union shall be held in April. The Convention Procedures Committee shall fix the date, hour and place of meeting in accordance with Policy. Notice of the date, hour and place of meeting in writing shall be given by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President to all sectors, not later than November 15th, or the first working day following November 15th, if that date is a Saturday, Sunday or statutory holiday. Such notice shall include the number of members in each of the Sectors, and for the Public Service Sector shall include the number of members in each of the Locals.

### 10.4            Resolutions

10.4.1          All resolutions to be placed on the Convention Agenda must be received in writing and either postmarked no later than January 10th, or received by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President by January 15th, or the first working day following January 15th, if that day is a Saturday, Sunday, or statutory holiday.

10.4.2          Only those resolutions approved by either a Sector Executive or Provincial Council will be accepted.

10.4.3          All Standing Committee Resolutions shall be subject to Provincial Council approval.

10.4.4          All Resolutions with exception of the Standing Committee Resolutions and/or Provincial Council Resolutions shall be subject to Sector approval.



- 10.4.5 Provincial Council Resolutions shall be subject to Provincial Council approval.
- 10.4.6 All Provincial Council Standing Committees shall be restricted to submission of resolutions to convention in relation to their respective committee mandate.
- 10.4.7 The Provincial Council shall have the authority to refer those resolutions which are deemed to be of a national or provincial concern to the National Union of Public and General Employees, the Canadian Labour Congress and/or the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour Conventions, and to other appropriate national or provincial organizations, for disposition.
- 10.5 Amendments to the Constitution
- 10.5.1 Resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution, to become effective, must:
- 10.5.1.1 Be received in writing and either postmarked no later than January 10th or received by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President by midnight January 15th or midnight of the first working day following January 15th, if that date is a Saturday, Sunday or statutory holiday.
- 10.5.1.2 Receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those delegates voting at the Convention.
- 10.6 Late Resolutions
- 10.6.1 A resolution received after midnight January 15th (or the first business day thereafter), but prior to the opening of Convention, may be introduced onto the floor of Convention as a late resolution, provided that it does not propose amendment of the Constitution; that it meets the approval requirements of Article 10.4.2; and that a two-thirds (2/3) majority of voting delegates vote to receive the resolution.
- 10.7 Emergency Resolutions
- 10.7.1 A resolution may be introduced onto the floor of Convention as an emergency resolution, provided that it does not propose amendment of the Constitution of SGEU; that it deals with matters or events arising after the resolution deadline referred to in Article 10.4.1; that it meets the approval requirements of Article 10.4.2; and that a two-thirds (2/3) majority of voting delegates vote to receive the resolution.

## 10.8 Motions from the Floor

- 10.8.1 A motion from the floor may be considered by Convention, provided that it does not propose amendment of the Constitution or standing policies of SGEU. Such motions shall not be substantially related to matters presented to the Convention in the form of resolutions. Amendments to such motions must meet such other requirements as provided in Rules of Order found in Constitutional Article 11. Such motions, to be accepted, shall require the support of fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of voting delegates.

## 10.9 Effective Date

- 10.9.1 All resolutions adopted by the Annual Convention shall take effect on adjournment of the Convention unless the resolution specifies otherwise.

## 10.10 Delegates

- 10.10.1 Voting delegates shall include:
- 10.10.1.1 Representation based on the Sector structure, with each Sector receiving one delegate per one hundred and fifty (150) members or greater portion thereof. The criteria and method of electing these delegates shall be determined by the Sectors, subject to Article 4.2.1 and 4.2.2, 4.2.7, and 4.2.8.2;
- 10.10.1.2 Members of the Provincial Council or their alternates.
- 10.10.1.3 Members of the Human Rights/Equity Committee or their alternates.
- 10.10.1.4 The Chair of the LTD Supervisory Committee and the three Table Officers of the LTD Supervisory Committee or their alternates with the three Table Officers or their alternates being at the expense of the SGEU LTD Plan.
- 10.10.1.5 Members of the Indigenous Committee; and
- 10.10.1.6 Each sector shall ensure that they have one delegate from an equity seeking group from within their delegate entitlement.
- 10.10.2 All sectors must register their delegates and all alternates to Conventions with the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President by February 15th or the first working day following February 15th if that day is a Saturday, Sunday or Statutory Holiday.
- ## 10.11 Other Representations
- 10.11.1 Provincial Council members elect shall attend Convention as an Observer at the expense of the Provincial Union. This does not preclude the Provincial Council member elect from running for a sector delegate seat.

- 10.11.2 Life members and Staff members of SGEU may attend the Convention meeting upon invitation and shall have voice at the courtesy of the Chair, but shall not be allowed to enter into debate, make motions, or vote.  
(Correction made May 2022 – Conv 2017 Res. C#15) (correction made May 2023 – Con 2023 Resolution C#8)
- 10.11.3 No other person shall be permitted to speak except at the invitation of the Chair, or with the consent of the majority of voting delegates present.
- 10.12 Expenses
- 10.12.1 Delegates shall be allowed approved expenses from Union funds.
- 10.13 Order of Business
- 10.13.1 Prior to the start of convention proceedings, the Convention Procedures Committee shall endeavour to have an Indigenous Elder smudge the Convention room and participating convention delegates who wish to go through the smudging ceremony. The Order of Business at the Annual Convention shall be:
1. Introduction of Ombudsman/Reading of Statement of Equality
  2. Adoption of Agenda
  3. Elder Greeting
  4. Adoption of the Convention Procedures Committee Report
  5. Adoption of Minutes of Last Annual Convention
  6. Report of Credentials Committee
  7. President's Report
  8. Tabling of Standing and Special Committee Reports
  9. Tabling of Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
  10. Amendments to the Constitution
  11. Resolutions
  12. Deferred Business
  13. Election of President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, NUPGE Vice-President, NUPGE Vice-President Alternate, SFL Vice-President, SFL Vice-President Alternate, Indigenous Vice-President, Indigenous Vice-President alternate, Board of Trustees
  14. New Business
  15. Good and Welfare
  16. Adjournment
- 10.14 Human Rights/Equity Caucuses
- 10.14.1 SGEU's Human Rights Equity Committee shall organize a caucus for each of the six (6) equity seeking groups. They are: Indigenous, Visible Minorities, Gay/Lesbian/Two-Spirited/Bisexual/Trans-Gendered, Members with Disabilities, Women and Youth. The caucuses will be hosted by the Human Rights/Equity Committee's respective representative.

## **ARTICLE 11      RULES OF ORDER**

- 11.1            These Rules of Order shall be for the guidance of meetings of the Provincial Council and Sectors, except in cases of dispute when they become mandatory.
- Rule 1            The Chairperson shall take the Chair at the time specified, at all regular and special meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson, a presiding officer pro tem shall be chosen by the meeting.
- Rule 2            A motion to be entertained by the Presiding Officer must be seconded, and the mover as well as the seconder must rise and be recognized by the Chair.
- Rule 3            The Presiding Officer shall state every motion coming before the meeting and following debate thereon, immediately before putting it to a vote, shall ask: "Is the meeting ready for the question?" Should no member rise to speak and the meeting indicates readiness, the question shall then be put. After the Presiding Officer has called for a vote on the motion, no member shall be permitted to speak upon it.
- Rule 4            A motion to amend or amend an amendment, shall be in order, but no motion to amend an amendment to an amendment shall be permitted. No amendment or amendment to an amendment shall be in order that is a direct negative of the original motion.
- Rule 5            On motion, the regular order of business may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present to deal with any urgent business.
- Rule 6            The Presiding Officer shall require all resolutions and motions, other than those named in Rule 16 or respecting the report of a committee, to be presented in writing before being put to the meeting.
- Rule 7            At the request of any member and where it is deemed advisable, upon a majority vote of those present, a motion may be divided.
- Rule 8            Any member having made a motion can withdraw it with the consent of the seconder, but a motion once debated cannot be withdrawn except by a majority vote of those present.
- Rule 9            When a member desires to speak on a question or offers a motion, they shall rise and respectfully address the Presiding

Officer. A member shall not proceed further until recognized by the Chair, except to state that they rise to a point of order or on a question of privilege.

- Rule 10 When two (2) or more members rise at the same time to speak, the Presiding Officer shall decide which one is entitled to the floor.
- Rule 11 Every member, while speaking to a motion, shall adhere to the question under debate.
- Rule 12 If a member is called to order, they shall cease speaking until the point is determined. If it is decided the member is in order, they may again proceed.
- Rule 13 No member shall speak more than five (5) minutes at any one time or more than once on the same motion, until all members wishing to speak have had an opportunity to do so. A speaker may be allowed to speak a second time by permission provided first time speakers have all had an opportunity to speak.
- Rule 14 The Presiding Officer shall take no part in debate while presiding, but may yield the Chair to another in order to speak on any motion or to introduce a new motion.
- Rule 15 The Presiding Officer shall have the right to vote on a question only in case of a tie and may give a casting vote or choose to refrain from voting. In the case where the Presiding Officer refrains from voting, the motion does not prevail and the decision is in the negative.
- Rule 16 When a motion has been properly moved and seconded, no motion shall be in order except:

		Debatable	Amendable
1.	To adjourn	no	no
2.	To recess (for definite time)	no	yes
3.	To table	no	no
4.	To appeal	no	no
5.	To stop debate	no	no
6.	To limit or extend debate	no	no
7.	To postpone to a certain date	yes	yes
8.	To refer (to a committee)	yes	yes
9.	To divide or amend	yes	yes
10.	To postpone indefinitely	yes	no

The motions shall have precedence in the order named.

- Rule 17      A motion to stop debate, when regularly moved and seconded, shall be put in this form: "Shall the main motion be now put?" To adopt a motion to stop debate, that motion must receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority. If adopted, the Presiding Officer shall proceed to take the vote on the motion and amendments thereto (if any) according to their priority. If an amendment or an amendment to an amendment is adopted, then the original motion as amended, shall be put to the meeting. A motion to stop debate having been put and lost shall not be in order again until fifteen (15) minutes have elapsed or no further speakers present themselves. Subsequent motions to stop debate shall require fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of those voting.
- Rule 18      A motion to adjourn is in order except:
1.      When a member has the floor.
  2.      When members are voting.
- Rule 19      A motion to adjourn having been put and lost shall not be in order again if there is further business before the meeting, until fifteen (15) minutes have elapsed.
- Rule 20      Any member may ask for a standing vote before the Presiding Officer declares the vote on a question or after a vote has been declared lost or carried by acclamation and before the meeting proceeds to another order of business. A standing vote shall be taken and the Secretary shall record the same.
- Rule 21      Any member may challenge the ruling of the Chair.
- Rule 22      When the Chair is challenged, the issue is not debatable except that the challenger and the Chairperson may each, respectively, state briefly the basis for the challenge and the decisions. The Chairperson may remain in the Chair and shall put the question: "Shall the decision of the Chair be the decision of the assembly?" A majority vote is required to overturn the decision of the Chair.
- Rule 23      After a motion has been decided, any two (2) members who have voted in the majority, may at the same or next meeting, move reconsideration thereof.
- Rule 24      No member shall enter or leave a meeting during the reading of the minutes, installation of officers or the taking of a vote,

and no member shall be allowed to leave without permission of the Presiding Officer.

Rule 25      All rules and proceedings of debate not herein provided for shall be decided in accordance with Bourinot's Rules of Order.

## ARTICLE 12 UNION DISCIPLINE AND ASSESSMENTS

- 12.1 Disciplinary Action Assessments and Other Non Disciplinary Recommendations
  - 12.1.1 The Provincial Council and/or Administration Committee shall have the right to reprimand any member, levy an assessment against any member, and/or suspend the status of member in good standing of any member, for cause or for neglect of duties. This includes but is not limited to, breaches of the Constitution, regulations or rules established by the Annual Convention or the Provincial Council, or for theft or deliberate damage to or destruction of Union property, or for fraud or misappropriation of Union funds.
  - 12.1.2 The MC&L Committee shall have the right to discipline members relating to internal union disputes and impose reprimands, suspensions of membership status and suspensions or terminations of union office.
  - 12.1.3 The Provincial Council retains the right to implement disciplinary action pending investigation by the Membership/Constitution and Legislation Committee or other appropriate Investigation Committee in extenuating circumstances where it is deemed that a delay may cause excessive damages to SGEU. Any discipline levied prior to investigation shall require two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Provincial Council.
  - 12.1.4 The Provincial Council and/or Administration Committee shall have the authority to suspend or terminate the Office of any member holding Elected Office in the Union for cause or for neglect of duties. Bargaining Unit Negotiating Committees shall have the authority to suspend the Office of any bargaining unit member within their unit holding elected office for cause or neglect of duties. This includes but is not limited to breaches of the Constitution, regulations or rules established by the Annual Convention or the Provincial Council.
    - 12.1.4.1 All union bodies who have authority to suspend or terminate the office of any member holding elected office in the union for cause or for neglect of duties shall follow the rules of natural justice and establish procedures for an investigative process (which is tasked with investigating and reaching a conclusion regarding disciplinary action) and a hearing process (which is tasked with conducting a fair and impartial forum for members to present their position regarding the recommended disciplinary action).
    - 12.1.4.2 As part of natural justice, the appeal process will be conducted by the Provincial Council Appeal Committee.



- 12.1.5 Failure to support SGEU constituted strike action shall be a specific offence for which the Administration Committee and/or Provincial Council shall implement disciplinary action and/or levy an assessment against any member as follows:
- 12.1.5.1 For every occasion during which a member fails to support strike action, that member may be assessed a sum of not more than the net earnings that members earned during such occasion.
- 12.1.5.2 The Provincial Council and/or Administration Committee may suspend the status of member in good standing of any member who fails to support strike action for such a period as is deemed appropriate to the offence. Reinstatement of a suspended member shall be subject to such conditions as may be specified by the Administration and/or Provincial Council.
- 12.1.5.3 The Provincial Council and/or Administration Committee shall remove from elected office any SGEU member who crosses any picket line sanctioned by SGEU.
- 12.1.5.4 The Provincial Council and/or Administration Committee may terminate the status of member in good standing of a member who fails to support strike action where termination of the status of member in good standing is deemed appropriate to the offence.
- 12.1.5.5 The Provincial Council and/or Administration Committee may suspend or terminate the status of member in good standing of a member who fails to pay an assessment levied pursuant to Article 12.1.7 above.
- 12.1.6 Following every strike or job action, the Provincial Council and/or Administration Committee may write to the employer concerned imposing an assessment on any member of a sum of not more than net earnings earned by any member during the time period covered by the strike or job action. Assessments will not be levied in situations where the work done was authorized by the Union.
- 12.1.7 The authority of SGEU to collect an assessment shall be included in the direction and authorization given to the employer by each member to transmit to SGEU dues and assessments, whether signed by each member before or after the coming into force of this Article.

## 12.2 Hearing Process

12.2.1 Any person whose status as a member in good standing in SGEU has been terminated or suspended, or against whom an assessment has been levied, shall have the right subject to Article 12.2.1.1 to request an appeal to the Provincial Council Appeal Committee, as provided for in Policy Article 2.7.

12.2.1.1 In all cases where the Public Service Negotiating Committee has suspended the office of a bargaining unit member within their unit holding elected office for cause or neglect of duties that member shall have the right to request a hearing before the Public Service Hearing Committee and appeal to the Provincial Council Appeal Committee, as provided for in Policy Article 2.7.

## 12.3 Provincial Council Appeal Process

12.3.1 In situations where an appeal is requested, the decision of the Provincial Council Appeal Committee will be provided in writing, with reasons, within fourteen (14) days of the appeal date. The decision of the Provincial Council Appeal Committee will be final.

12.3.2 No person or member shall have the right to commence legal action of any kind against the Union or any member of the Union or its paid staff until the appeal procedure as provided for herein has been exhausted.

12.3.3 The Sectors shall adhere to any disciplinary action or policy relating to discipline upheld by the Provincial Council Appeal Committee.

12.3.4 When requesting an appeal of an assessment, where a member failed to support strike/job action, the member must pay the assessment before they shall have a right to have the appeal heard. In the event the assessment is rescinded or modified upon appeal, the Union shall make any necessary reimbursement to the member.

## 12.4 Full-time Salaried Officers

- 12.4.1 If a full-time salaried Officer of SGEU elected at the Annual Convention is accused of a criminal offence, Provincial Council may, on a two-thirds (2/3) vote, temporarily suspend the Officer from office pending the result of the police investigation and possible trial.
- 12.4.2 If the Officer is convicted, the Provincial Council has the authority to conduct a hearing to determine if the Officer should be suspended or terminated from holding office in SGEU. Any suspension or termination shall require two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Provincial Council.
- 12.4.3 If a full-time salaried Officer of SGEU elected at the Annual Convention is accused of violating the Constitution or engaging in a significant dereliction of duty, then
- a) Provincial Council will establish an Ad Hoc Committee to review the matter, following the rules of natural justice.
  - b) The Ad Hoc Committee will engage legal counsel to provide guidance as to the nature of the accusation and the proper procedure to be followed to ensure natural justice is provided, and to ensure the legal interests of the Union are protected.
  - c) The Ad Hoc Committee will report its findings to Provincial Council.
  - d) If the Ad Hoc Committee finds that the Officer did violate the Constitution or engaged in a significant dereliction of duty, the Provincial Council will
    - i. by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, decide whether to accept those findings of the Committee;
    - ii. by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, decide on a penalty other than a suspension or termination that they consider appropriate to the offence, such as a fine or the requirement for an apology or remedial action, or
    - iii. decide by a two-thirds (2/3) vote that the issue is sufficiently serious to warrant a Special or Regular Convention decision to determine by way of hearing if the Officer should be suspended or terminated from holding office in SGEU.
    - iv. by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, Provincial Council retains the right to place the Officer on a non-disciplinary leave with/without pay pending the Convention in extenuating circumstances where it is deemed that a delay may cause undue damage to SGEU.

## ARTICLE 13 FISCAL YEAR

- 13.1 The financial year of the Union shall end on December 31st of each year.

## **ARTICLE 14      NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES (NUPGE)**

### **14.1            Affiliation**

14.1.1        The Union shall be affiliated to the National Union of Public and General Employees.

### **14.2            Convention Delegates**

14.2.1        For the purpose of filling the Union's delegate entitlement to the NUPGE Convention, the President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and the NUPGE Vice-President shall be automatic delegates. The delegate credentials for the President and NUPGE Vice-President will be drawn over and above the overall numbers of delegates. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President delegate credentials will come out of the Sector entitlements from which they derive, displaced credential will be sent as an observer. The remaining delegate entitlement shall be proportionally distributed among the sectors.

14.2.2        Each Sector/Local shall be responsible for developing the guidelines for nomination and election/selection of their delegates and alternates to the NUPGE Convention. Each sector shall be entitled to at least one (1) delegate and shall forward the respective names to the Provincial office staff assigned the coordination of NUPGE Convention.

### **14.3            NUPGE Convention Resolutions**

14.3.1        The Provincial Council shall request the Sectors to submit proposed resolutions for consideration at the NUPGE Convention. This request shall allow for time to discuss the resolutions in the Sectors prior to submission to the Provincial Council.

14.3.2        Those resolutions for the NUPGE Convention that are submitted to the SGEU Annual Convention must receive support of the SGEU Convention in order to be forwarded to the NUPGE Convention. The Provincial Council shall also be empowered to deal with resolutions which Sectors or the Provincial Council wish to have considered for the NUPGE Convention.

14.3.3        Resolutions for the NUPGE Convention, sanctioned by the SGEU Convention and/or by Provincial Council, shall be endorsed by the SGEU President and the NUPGE Vice-President and forwarded by the President or designate.

## **ARTICLE 15      SASKATCHEWAN FEDERATION OF LABOUR/CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (SFL/CLC) CONVENTION**

- 15.1            Affiliation
  - 15.1.1        The Union shall be affiliated to the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress.
- 15.2            Convention Delegates
  - 15.2.1        Credentials to the SFL and CLC Conventions shall be the property of the individual Sectors. Each Sector/Local shall specify in its bylaws how it shall elect/select its own delegation. Delegates, alternates and observer lists shall be forwarded to the Provincial office staff assigned the coordination of SFL & CLC Conventions.
  - 15.2.2        Sectors/Local shall not be required to forfeit their credentials if they do not wish them to be filled.
  - 15.2.3        The President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and the SFL Vice-President shall be an automatic delegates to the SFL and CLC Conventions and their delegate credential will be drawn over and above the number of delegates. The NUPGE Vice-President shall be an automatic delegate to the CLC Convention and their delegate credential will be drawn from over and above the number of delegates.
  - 15.2.4        Vice-Presidents elected at the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, and sanctioned by Provincial Council, will be automatic delegates to the SFL Convention. Delegate credentials will be from the overall numbers of delegates.
- 15.3            SFL/CLC Convention Resolutions
  - 15.3.1        The Provincial Council shall request the Sector to submit proposed resolutions for consideration of the SFL/CLC Conventions. This request shall allow for time to discuss the resolutions in the Sectors.
  - 15.3.2        Those resolutions for the SFL/CLC Conventions that are submitted to the SGEU Annual Convention must receive the support of the SGEU Convention in order to be forwarded to the SFL/CLC Conventions.
  - 15.3.3        Resolutions for the SFL/CLC Convention sanctioned by the SGEU Convention and/or Provincial Council shall be endorsed by the SGEU President and the SFL Vice-President and forwarded by the President or their designate.

## **ARTICLE 16      SGEU LONG TERM DISABILITY PLAN (LTD PLAN)**

### **16.1            General**

16.1.1            In furtherance of its objectives and as a service to its members, SGEU may operate a Long Term Disability Plan.

### **16.2            Governance**

16.2.1            **Governance and its purview will be provided in the SGEU LTD Plan Charter.**

### **16.3            LTD Supervisory Committee**

16.3.1.1           The LTD Supervisory Committee shall be a Provincial Council Standing Committee.

### **16.4            LTD Funds**

16.4.1            The dues as determined pursuant to Article 16.2 shall be forwarded by the Director of Finance to the financial agency designated by the Supervisory Committee with the responsibility for administering the LTD funds.

16.4.2            Prior to forwarding the dues pursuant to Article 16.4.1, the Director of Finance shall retain, from those dues, sufficient sums to cover:

16.4.2.1           The costs of the Supervisory Committee of the LTD.

16.4.2.2           The cost of such custodial agent(s), investment manager(s), and other agents, including any consultants and professionals, as may be employed, engaged or retained from time to time by the Supervisory Committee in consultation with the Director of Finance in respect to any matter relating to the LTD Plan, including the administration thereof.

16.4.2.3           Such further and other costs as may be directly related to the administration of the LTD Plan.

16.3.3.            LTD dues received by SGEU shall be deposited in the SGEU LTD Plan account for the operation of the LTD Plan and shall be held in trust by the Supervisory Committee for the members of the LTD Plan. LTD funds shall not be used for the general operations of SGEU, to supplement the financial resources of SGEU, or to add to any operational or other fund of SGEU. The LTD funds shall not be used as security for any loan made to SGEU for its general operations.

16.3.4.            The Supervisory Committee may invest and reinvest the LTD funds or any portion thereof without distinction between capital and income in any investment which the Supervisory Committee in its discretion deems

advisable, including, but not limited to investments listed in Section 3 of The Trustees Act (Chapter T-23).

- 16.3.5. The Supervisory Committee may appoint from time to time by written agreement, in consultation with the Director of Finance, one (1) or more persons, trust companies, firms or corporations as the Supervisory Committee may deem appropriate and desirable to act as an investment manager(s) for any portion of the LTD funds as the Supervisory Committee may designate. The investment manager(s) may direct the custodial agent concerned to invest and reinvest the respective Investment Account in accordance with the provisions of said agreement. The agreement shall set forth such terms and conditions and such authorities, powers and duties of the respective investment manager as the Supervisory Committee may deem appropriate and desirable to so delegate.
- 16.3.6. The Supervisory Committee may from time to time employ, engage or retain such other agents, consultants and professionals, in respect to any matter relating to the LTD Plan, including the administration thereof. The Supervisory Committee, in consultation with the Director of Finance, may do so as deemed necessary and desirable.

# APPENDICES



## CODE OF ETHICS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS OF SGEU

### PREAMBLE

Unions today play a vital role in the improvement of living and working conditions of all Canadians. Much of our present standard of living and many of the social benefits we all enjoy have come about from organizing and educational work done by our predecessors in the union movement.

Trade unions are the legitimate voice of Canadian workers. In this context, trade unions have had an extremely difficult and controversial role in today's society. As such, unions are subject to more scrutiny on actions taken by our elected officials than any other democratic organization.

Officers of this Union have a responsibility to protect the members' rights and promote solidarity by keeping the membership informed and united.

SGEU expects a high standard of conduct of its elected officials and in return will, at all times, support and protect them in the performance of the duties of their office.

SGEU commits to elected officials (including stewards) to take swift action when they face retaliation or harassment.

In order to ensure that these standards are upheld, SGEU has adopted the following standards that are expected of all its elected officials.

### POLICY

Officials shall be elected or appointed as provided for in the bargaining guidelines, Sector/Local Bylaws, the Constitution and the Policies of The Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union and accept the Oath of Office as provided for in the SGEU Constitution.

All Elected Officials shall:

1. In all aspects of Union activity, conduct themselves in accordance with Union Policy and in a manner which reflects well on SGEU and its membership.
2. Become knowledgeable in the internal structure of the Union and the applicable collective agreement.

3. Enforce the collective agreements of the various bargaining units in SGEU and shall not accept less than the negotiated provisions for the members.
4. At all times represent the members without personal bias or discrimination and observe confidentiality when dealing with sensitive matters regarding membership servicing.
5. Attend all functions, meetings and educationals when called upon by the Union, as directed by the bylaws, bargaining guidelines, policies and Constitution.
6. Reflect the official Union policy at all times when dealing with management. Co-chairpersons of Occupational Health and Safety Committees, and the membership of any other committees sanctioned by the Union shall be elected.
7. Not participate in management committees other than those sanctioned by the Union, irrespective of the name or intention of said committees.
8. Discharge their duties in the best interests of the membership, without consideration for personal gain, and shall refuse all gifts, gratuities, favours or other considerations, which might be perceived to influence decisions on union policy.
9. Shall administer the records and assets of the Union in a responsible manner, consistent with the Union's policy as developed from time to time.
10. Shall work at all times within the Union structure when expressing disagreements or criticisms about the internal workings or policy of the Union, other Union members or the paid staff of the Union.
11. Take swift action when they become aware of incidents of retaliation and harassment experienced by other elected officials and, if they themselves face harassment, report to designated union representative.

Failure to comply with these rules of conduct will be grounds for disciplinary action as provided for in the SGEU Constitution.

Approved by the SGEU Convention, May 1983  
Amended by the SGEU Convention, June 1998  
Amended by the SGEU Convention, April 2009

## **MEETINGS AND EVENTS MEMBER STATEMENT OF EQUALITY**

All SGEU meetings and events will be held in an environment free of harassment and/or discrimination. SGEU has a zero tolerance for any harassing and/or discriminatory actions, behaviours and comments.

Harassment is any behaviour that undermines the dignity, self-esteem or security of an individual, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile or offensive environment.

Our Union will not tolerate any forms of harassment and/or discrimination which violate any person's or class of person's right to be treated with dignity and respect. Such action by a member may result in immediate expulsion from the meeting or event by the Chair or Ombudsman.

Revised at Convention 2019, Convention 2017; Convention 2016; Revised at Provincial Council December 2001; Revised at SGEU

Convention June 1996; Adopted at SGEU Convention June 1992

## SGEU STATEMENT ON EQUALITY

All SGEU meetings and events will be held in an environment free of harassment and discrimination. SGEU has zero tolerance for any harassing or discriminatory actions, behavior, and comments.

As a unionist, mutual respect, cooperation, and solidarity are our principles and our union commits to building a culture in which equity, diversity, tolerance, and safety are fundamental. SGEU is strongest when leadership is inclusive and reflects the full diversity of the membership; regardless what their role is in our union.

Our union will not tolerate any forms of discrimination or conduct which is racist, sexist, homophobic, any form of discrimination based on ability, age, religion, language, or ethnic origin. Such action by a member may result in immediate expulsion from a meeting or event by the Chair or Ombudsman.

### DEFINITION OF HARASSMENT

Harassment can be defined as any unwelcome or unwanted action by any person against another. It can be a verbal or physical action on a single or repeated basis, which intimidates, humiliates, insults, degrades or threatens.

“Unwelcome” or “unwanted” means any action(s) which the harasser knows or ought reasonably to know are not desired.

## HARASSMENT AT SGEU MEETINGS OR EVENTS

At the commencement of each meeting/event one (1) or more Ombudsman will be designated and identified.

The mandate of the Ombudsman will be to deal with informal complaints of harassment.

To stop harassment we must make every effort to act as quickly as possible to challenge and stop offensive behaviour.

If it happens to you, take responsibility...

If possible, tell the person(s) how you feel. Be specific. Say you want the behavior to stop and try to find a solution.

Don't blame yourself. Each person is responsible for their own actions. Tell the Ombudsman. Every effort will be made to ensure confidentiality.

The Ombudsman will assist you with the informal process. Every effort will be made to deal with complaints prior to the conclusion of the event.

If unresolved, the Ombudsman may recommend that the person file a formal complaint and submit it directly to the President and/or the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and/or Membership/Constitution and Legislation (MC&L) Chairperson.

If you are accused of harassment take responsibility...

Stop the actions, comments or offending behaviour immediately. Each person is responsible for their own actions.

Try to resolve the issue. If you take positive action to correct your behaviour, you may want to keep a record of the steps you took.

If the Ombudsman is involved, they will assist you with the informal process. Every effort will be made to deal with complaints prior to the conclusion of the event.

If unresolved, a formal complaint may be filed against you with the President and/or the MC&L Chairperson.

## HARASSMENT IN OUR WORKPLACES

All bargaining units should negotiate anti-harassment clauses in their Collective Agreements to include:

- Mechanisms to resolve disputes,
- Protection for the complainant and
- Education awareness sessions on harassment for everyone in the workplace.

## HARASSMENT IN OUR COMMUNITIES

We can challenge harassment and discrimination in society at large. We have an obligation to fight for equal rights for all people by lobbying for legislative changes and working with other unions and organizations to challenged discrimination.

OUR GOAL MUST BE ZERO TOLERANCE
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## DEFINITIONS

### Harassment

Harassment, as defined by the Saskatchewan Employment Act, means any inappropriate conduct, comment, display, action or gesture by a person:

a) that either:

- i. is based on race, creed, religion, colour, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, disability, physical size or weight, age, nationality, ancestry or place of origin; or
- ii. subject to subsections (4) and (5) of the Saskatchewan Employment Act, adversely affects the person’s psychological or physical well-being and that the person knows or ought reasonably to know would cause a person to be humiliated or intimidated; and

b) that constitutes a threat to the health or safety of the person.

### Frivolous

Frivolous is having no sound basis (as in fact or law).

### Vexatious

Vexatious is instituted without sufficient grounds with its purpose to bother, annoy, embarrass and/or cause harm to the respondent, intended to harass.

(Created CONV 2021 – C36)

## ACRONYMS

AGEN	Indigenous Government Employees Network
CLC	Canadian Labour Congress
CMHA	Canadian Mental Health Association
CS	Crown Sector
CSS	Community Services Sector
ES	Education Sector
ELD	Education and Learning Development
ECIP	Early Childhood Intervention Program
FNIM	First Nations Inuit & Métis
FSIN	Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
GDI	Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research
HR/E	Human Rights/Equity
HS	Health Sector
ISC	Information Services Corporation
JEO	Job Evaluation Officer
LRO	Labour Relations Officer
LTD	Long Term Disability
MC&L	Membership/Constitution and Legislation
NUPGE	National Union of Public and General Employees
OHC	Occupational Health Committee
OH&S/E	Occupational Health & Safety/Environment
PEBA	Public Employees Benefits Agency
PEPP	Public Employees Pension Plan
PRT	Pacific Regeneration Technologies Inc.
PSC	Public Service Commission
PS/GE	Public Service/Government Employment
PSS	Public Service Sector
PSSP	Public Service Superannuation Plan
RRS	Retail Regulatory Sector



SAC	Saskatchewan Action Committee (on the Status of Women)
SAMA	Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency
SFL	Saskatchewan Federation of Labour
SHEP	Saskatchewan Health Employees Pension Plan
SIAS	Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology
SILP	Saskatchewan International Labour Program
SPI	Saskatchewan Pork International Marketing Group Inc.
SPM	Saskatchewan Property Management
SSRID	South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District
LD	Leadership Development
UM	Union Management Committee
UMC	Union Management Committee
WCA	Wascana Centre Authority
WCB	Workers' Compensation Board

# SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES' UNION LIFE MEMBERS

Ivon P. Burrell	1950		John Johnson	1992
George Dickson	1951		Bernie Clark	1994
William W. Perrie	1951		Jeannine Bouvier	1994
John Miller	1952		Wally Fries	1995
William Browne	1952		Lois Grant	1995
George Chant	1952		Shirley Carswell	1996
James E. Cox	1952		Bruce Jackson	1996
George S. Cumming	1952		Vick Wasylenchuk	1997
John R. McDiarmid	1952		Charles Shaw	1997
T. R. Peacock	1952		George Rosenau	1998
Walter Sandstrom	1952		James Donovan	1999
A. T. Fuller	1952		Barry Barber	2002
W. J. Bague	1953		Wayne Mabee	2003
L. W. Olauson	1953		Ken Akre	2003
Gladys Berney	1954		Ron Kach	2003
Walter H. Boucher	1956		Albert Kobialko	2004
J. J. Eisler	1956		Stan McCafferty	2005
Albert Mayer	1956		Linda Anweiler	2007
H. J. Langston	1959		Ron Holaday	2007
C. J. Siller	1959		Danny Wilson	2009
Dorothy German	1961		Marius Rediron	2010
Dave Crighton	1961		Randy Holderbein	2010
James MacLeod	1962		Steve Lane	2011
Audrey A. Ball	1962		Sid Wonitowy	2011
Nick Basarsky	1963		Mabel Litowski	2012
Donald A. Gilchrist	1965		Jim Steele	2012
George R. Leib	1965		Sandi Marcotte	2013
Carl W. Byer	1966		Anne Burkholder	2013
Alice Hehn	1967		Tracey Kurtenbach	2014
Derna Measner	1967		Helen Hrynychak	2014
John Anderson	1968		Cam Kelly	2015
Stanley J. Frew	1973		Deb Hawreschuk	2015
A. M. (Mac) Howland	1973		Terry Ullman	2015
John A. Fraser	1974		Brian York	2017
P. P. Martins	1974		Herb Norton	2017
T. S. McGill	1976		Barb Byers	2018
G. Charbonneau	1978		Donna Christianson	2018
Grace Knipfel	1979		Vern Stobbs	2019
Merve Scott	1979		Audrey Yaremy	2019
H. R. C. Brown	1983		Chris Day	2021
John Capusten	1983		Shawna North	2021
J. Earl Storey	1984		Bonnie Erickson	2021
Wendel Stroh	1984		Tim McKay	2021

Nick Catchuk	1985		Doug Blanc	2021
Elizabeth Nicol	1986		Pete Springstein	2022
James Hayes	1987		Larry Brown	2023
Zonie Krawchuk	1987		Barry Nowoselsky	2023
Jim Perrins	1988		Bob Stadnichuk	2024
Al Scarfe	1988		Sharon Friess	2024
Jack West	1990		Bonnie Bond	2025
Martin d'Etremont	1990		Ralph Rathgeber	2025
Marion Norwig	1992			