



# REPORT ON **BARGAINING**

PS/GE BARGAINING UNIT

JULY 2019

## **Tell government: Protect the workers who protect us**

**Essential Services negotiations stalled**

**More public services reduced**

**Correctional Officers honoured**



## Bargaining update

# Essential Services negotiations at a stand still

### Regina Head Office

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Phone: 306-522-8571  
Toll Free: 1-800-667-5221  
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### Saskatoon Office

#201, 1114 – 22nd St. W.  
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Phone: 306-652-1811  
Toll Free 1-800-667-9791  
Fax: 306-664-7134

### Prince Albert Office

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Prince Albert, SK S6V 3A8  
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sg.eu.org

**Y**our negotiating committee continues to meet with the employer regarding essential services. *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* stipulates that parties must negotiate an Essential Services Agreement, including identifying which duties are essential, before job action can be initiated.

The employer has not presented us with an offer that's acceptable to the bargaining unit. The last offer we received was sent to all members of the bargaining unit in spring of this year.

It is inevitable that we will soon reach an impasse in our efforts to reach an Essential Services Agreement. At that point, we will notify the Labour Relations Board, the employer, and the minister of labour relations, and will begin the process of convening an essential services tribunal. The tribunal will then hear arguments

from both sides, and issue a ruling regarding how essential services are to be maintained during job action.

We thank you for your patience during this lengthy process, and we will continue to keep you informed. If you have any questions, please contact your negotiating committee at 306-775-7206.

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to the bargaining unit.**

## SGEU to begin paying members by direct deposit

As of July 1, 2019, SGEU will begin paying members by electronic funds transfer (EFT) to improve services to our members and limit our exposure to fraudulent activity.

The EFT allows SGEU to deposit our payments to you directly into your bank account. You will not get a paper cheque but a non-negotiable copy of your pay advice that will be delivered on, or shortly after, the day the funds have been deposited into your account.

You must submit a void cheque, if possible, as well as download and fill out the EFT form here: <https://tinyurl.com/y46l4vta>



## TAKE ACTION

# Protect members in wildfire and emergency management

**T**he provincial government is planning to transfer wildfire and emergency management employees to a new Crown agency, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency. As a result, these members — including wildland firefighters and members who manage environmental disasters such as floods — will be forced to form a new bargaining unit and negotiate a new collective agreement, including a new benefits package.

As a result, approximately 600 members and their families will lose their existing health and dental benefits. With a smaller bargaining unit — and one that will include a larger proportion of seasonal workers — they won't be able to negotiate a benefits package that is equal to the one they currently have.

Members in wildfire and emergency management will also have fewer employment security options, as their ability to move to another job in the event of layoffs will be limited to within the new agency, and not in other areas of government.

These members' rights and benefits were negotiated fair and square — government should keep its word by honouring their existing collective agreement.

**Take action!** Visit [fightfair.ca](http://fightfair.ca) to sign our petition, and use our online tools to send an email to your MLA, call your MLA, and write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.



## Government removing more members from the PS/GE Bargaining Unit

The provincial government is centralizing procurement services and moving employees from various ministries into SaskBuilds. As a result of this transfer, these members will form a new bargaining unit and negotiate a new collective agreement, including a new benefits package.

With a smaller bargaining unit, these members may not be able to negotiate benefits that are equal to the ones they currently have. However, once the new bargaining unit has formed, SGEU will strive to negotiate the same level of benefits for these employees.

# Call for committee representatives

The PS/GE Bargaining Unit has openings for members to participate on committees.

Your application must clearly indicate the committee you are applying for. **Note: If you are applying for more than one committee, you must submit a separate application outlining your interest and qualifications for each committee.**

Mail your application to:  
Shelley Strachan  
1011 Devonshire Drive North  
Regina, SK, S4X 2X4

or send via email to [sstrachan@sgeu.org](mailto:sstrachan@sgeu.org)

**Deadline for applications is 5 p.m., Friday, August 30, 2019.**

Your application will be assessed by the PS/GE Negotiating Committee and recommendations will be made to the PS/GE Bargaining Council.

Applicants are needed for the following committees:

## Social Services Issues Committee

This committee works to resolve issues and ensure a healthy and safe workplace for members who work for the Ministry of Social Services.

Six (6) members will be selected. Members are required to be from either the Income Security or Family Services areas of the Ministry. The members will be selected to reflect various geographic locations.

*For the following committees, preference will be given to members who have experience in dealing with grievances.*

## Regional Grievance Committees

These committees review grievances in their respective geographical area and assist in gathering information as needed to ensure grievances are dealt with on a timely basis.

They make recommendations to the screening committee.

Each of the three (3) regional committees is seeking four (4) members.

1. *North Regional Grievance Committee:* Eligible members will be a member of one of the following locals: Prince Albert; Hudson Bay; Nipawin; Melfort; Meadow Lake; Missinipe; or Buffalo Narrows.
2. *Central Regional Grievance Committee:* Eligible members will be a member of one of the following locals: Saskatoon; Battlefords; Humboldt; or Rosetown.
3. *South Regional Grievance Committee:* Eligible members will be a member of one of the following locals: Regina; Weyburn; Swift Current; Moose Jaw; Estevan; or Yorkton.

## Screening Committee

This committee serves as the Screening Committee for PS/GE Bargaining Unit grievances. This includes making decisions concerning which grievances should proceed to third-party dispute resolution and which grievances should be withdrawn.

Three (3) members will be selected. All members from the PS/GE bargaining unit are eligible to apply.

## PS/GE Appeal Committee

The PS/GE Appeal Committee serves as the appeal body for all grievance appeals in the PS/GE.

Six (6) members will be selected from the bargaining unit. All members from the PS/GE bargaining unit are eligible to apply.

## Health Plan Board of Trustees

The Health Plan Board of Trustees monitors benefits and funding and manages the Public Service Health Plan.

Four (4) members are required for the term of the next collective agreement.

Preference will be given to members who have experience or training as a trustee.

## Classification Appeal Panel Members

The Negotiating Committee is seeking several members to be trained to participate in hearing classification appeals. The appeal panel is a group of both in-scope and out-of-scope members that hears classification appeals.



# Saskatchewan residents paying the price for camping fee increases



**A**s Saskatchewan residents get ready to take their summer camping trips around the province, yet another set of increases in vehicle entry and camping fees shows that the Sask Party government is gouging residents while failing to reinvest money into our provincial parks.

Since 2013, a series of fee hikes by the Sask Party government has dramatically increased the costs of camping at Saskatchewan provincial parks. Fees for a seasonal economy site have increased 86 per cent in the past six years, nightly camping fees for a full-service site have increased by 62 per cent, and weekly vehicle entry fees have increased by 60 per cent.

According to Minh Truong, director of park experiences with the provincial government, recent fee increases are due entirely to increased park operating costs. But according to the government's own annual reports, since 2013, total spending on parks programs, capital projects, and preventative maintenance is actually down by over nine per cent.

**Fees for a seasonal economy campsite have increased 86 per cent over the past six years.**

Over the past decade, the Sask Party government has privatized camp sites at Cypress Hills, sold off publicly-operated rental cabins at Greenwater Lake, allowed a BC company to build and operate a marina at Blackstrap Provincial Park and allowed a private security company to provide enforcement services in Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park.

"Provincial parks belong to all Saskatchewan residents, and they shouldn't be seen as a money-maker for this government or select private companies," said SGEU President Bob Bymoen. "Any increase in fees should be directly reinvested back into our parks — to the employees who operate them, and to the services and infrastructure that benefit all users."

# SGEU pleased to see recognition of Correctional Officers

More than 20 SGEU members attended the Saskatchewan legislature on the inaugural Correctional Officer Appreciation Day to witness the proclamation.



**"The dedication, courage, and professionalism exhibited by these front-line workers deserves our full respect."**

**SGEU President  
Bob Bymoan**

Correctional Officers around the province were honoured by the Government of Saskatchewan recently, after Minister of Corrections and Policing Christine Tell proclaimed May 7 as Correctional Officer Appreciation Day.

On this day, SGEU representatives from each correctional facility and regional probation offices were recognized in the Saskatchewan Legislature. Lunch events for other staff also took place at each facility and at probation offices around the province.

"Correctional Officers have some of the toughest jobs in public service," said SGEU President Bob Bymoan. "Often it can be a thankless job, as their service to the community is mostly far from the public's view and behind closed doors."

Correctional Officers are much more than just people who keep offenders behind

bars; they are counselors, first responders, referees, supporters, and caregivers for some of society's most dangerous and often most disadvantaged.

"The dedication, courage, and professionalism exhibited by these front-line workers deserves our full respect," said Bymoan. "We are very pleased to see these devoted members recognized for the vital role they play in public safety."

This is the first year Correctional Officer Appreciation Day has been proclaimed in Saskatchewan. There are approximately 2,200 Correctional Officers, Facility Youth Workers and Probation Officers across Saskatchewan.

"We thank the minister for proclaiming this day, and we look forward to working together to continue to highlight and honour these brave people both now and in the future," said Bymoan.



# Tell government to stop wasting money on IT consultants

**F**or years, the provincial government has been cutting back the number of in-house information technology workers it employs, and instead hiring expensive private consultants.

It's clear that using consultants doesn't save money — while IT staff have been cut by 43 per cent since 2009, IT spending is up by 82 per cent. Meanwhile, private IT companies are benefiting. Just five such companies took in \$40 million in public money last year — and now they're meeting with government to push for even more lucrative deals.

Not only are in-house IT staff more cost-effective than consultants, they're also more accountable. And when they get experience

and training at public expense, it stays where it will serve Saskatchewan people — instead of walking out the door when a consultant's contract is up.

It's time to let government know that it needs to stop wasting public money on IT consultants, especially at a time of tax hikes and service cuts.

**Take action now!** Use our online tool at [keepITservicespublic.ca](http://keepITservicespublic.ca) to send a letter to the Minister of Central Services, call his office, or send a letter to your local newspaper. Let's call on the Saskatchewan government to stop overusing consultants, and to rebuild in-house IT capabilities.



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# Government tries to balance books by reducing services to the public

**E**arlier this year, the Ministry of Environment announced it was closing front-counter services at 19 of its field offices — more proof that the Sask Party government is trying to balance its books on the backs of workers, while reducing vital services to members of the public.

"This government has made countless poor financial decisions over the past few years, including the GTH, the Regina Bypass, LEAN, the Boundary Dam carbon capture project and more, and now they are making workers and the public suffer because of their own fiscal incompetence," said SGEU President Bob Bymoén.

Depending on the location, closures began taking place April 1. By October, front-counter services will be discontinued in Assiniboia, Big River, Buffalo Narrows, Estevan, Humboldt, Île-à-la-Crosse, Kindersley, Leader, Lloydminster, Maple Creek, Moose Jaw, Outlook, Pinehouse, Preeceville, Shaunavon, Southend, Spiritwood, Wadena and Weyburn. Eighteen SGEU members who live, work, and contribute to these communities are losing their jobs because of this decision.

**"You can't replace the knowledge these people provide to the public with an online system."**

**SGEU President  
Bob Bymoén**



"These workers provide excellent service, in-depth knowledge for hunters and anglers, access for the public to check for chronic wasting disease, and much more," said Bymoén.

"You can't replace the knowledge these people provide to the public with an online system. Sadly, we're seeing the Sask Party government continue to dismantle services and good jobs just because they have wasted billions of dollars over the past several years. They need to work on cutting back on their wasteful spending, not valuable public services," added Bymoén.

## Golf tournament

Congratulations to the winning team of the PS/GE golf tournament, North Battleford Local 1103! Held at Jackfish Lodge in June, the tournament was a fundraiser for the Saskatchewan branch of the Children's Wish Foundation. Thank you to our sponsors and to everyone who participated!

Left to right: Rory Jordan, Jim Cole, Roger Demontarnal, Scott Scheuger





# Pharmacy dispensing fees

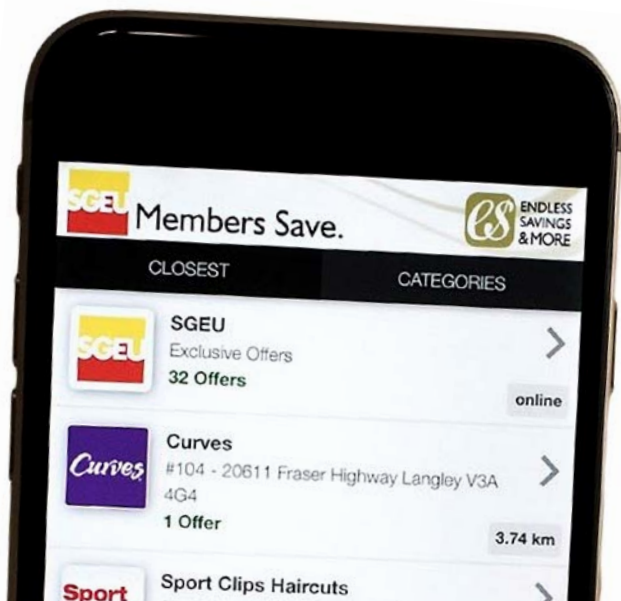
In order to keep the costs to our extended health plan to a minimum, we encourage members to fill prescriptions at pharmacies with lower dispensing fees.

Pharmacy		Cost	Pharmacy		Cost
<b>Regina</b>			<b>Moose Jaw</b>		
Co-op Pharmacy	306-791-9301	\$11.60	Pharmasave	306-692-6433	\$11.60
Costco Pharmacy	306-271-0922	\$ 4.49	Loblaw Pharmacy	306-691-6035	\$11.60
London Drugs	306-546-1600	\$ 9.99	Rexall Pharmacy	306-694-5556	\$11.60
Pharmasave	306-789-5541	\$11.60	Safeway Pharmacy	306-694-2112	\$11.60
Rexall Pharmacy	306-543-1446	\$11.60	<b>Nipawin</b>		
Safeway Pharmacy	306-586-5140	\$11.60	Davis Rexall	306-862-3141	\$11.60
Shopper's Drug Mart	306-777-8040	\$11.60	<b>North Battleford</b>		
Superstore Pharmacy	306-546-6500	\$11.60	Fisher's Drug Store	306-445-6153	\$11.60
Sobeys Pharmacy	306-546-5881	\$11.60	Co-op Pharmacy	306-445-9800	\$11.60
<b>Saskatoon</b>			Walmart Pharmacy	306-445-8108	\$11.60
Safeway Pharmacy	306-934-8185	\$11.60	Shopper's Drug Mart	306-445-6253	\$11.60
Superstore Pharmacy	306-956-1631	\$11.60	Pharmasave	306-937-2600	\$11.60
Shoppers Pharmacy	306-653-4866	\$11.60	Battleford Drug Mart	306-937-3303	\$11.60
Extra Foods Pharmacy	306-249-9200	\$11.60	<b>Prince Albert</b>		
London Drugs	306-664-9521	\$ 9.99	Safeway Pharmacy	306-922-1242	\$11.60
<b>Estevan</b>			Superstore Pharmacy	306-953-8120	\$11.60
Henderson Drugs	306-634-3666	\$11.60	Shopper's Drug Mart	306-922-6144	\$11.60
Pharmasave	306-637-3802	\$11.60	<b>Swift Current</b>		
Sobey's Pharmacy	306-637-2580	\$11.60	Pharmasave	306-778-5362	\$11.60
<b>Hudson Bay</b>			Co-op Pharmacy	306-778-8800	\$11.60
Pharmasave	306-865-2663	\$11.60	Rexall Drug Store	306-773-4633	\$11.60
<b>Kelvington</b>			Shopper's Drug Mart	306-773-5301	\$11.60
Kelvington Pharmacy	306-327-4662	\$11.60	<b>Weyburn</b>		
<b>Kindersley</b>			Co-op Pharmacy	306-848-3663	\$11.60
Kindersley Pharmasave	306-463-1655	\$11.60	Drugstore Pharmacy	306-848-3407	\$11.60
<b>La Ronge</b>			Pharmasave	306-848-3850	\$11.60
La Ronge Drug Store	306-425-2252	\$11.60	Price Rite Pharmacy	306-842-4221	\$11.60
<b>Meadow Lake</b>			<b>Yorkton</b>		
Drugstore Pharmacy	306-236-8330	\$11.60	Hearn's Westview		
Co-op Pharmacy	306-236-6366	\$11.60	Pharmacy	306-783-4331	\$11.60
Madill's Drugs	306-236-5210	\$11.60	Shopper's Drug Mart	306-783-9796	\$11.60
			Superstore Pharmacy	306-786-4035	\$11.60



## Discount program for Public Service members

# Savings at your fingertips



**A**s a member of the Public Service, you are entitled to countless savings from merchants in hundreds of locations across Canada. We are part of the Endless Savings & More program that allows you to get great deals — and it's all available from your smartphone.

### How to sign up for savings:

If you have an **Android** phone, go to the Google Play store and search for the Endless Savings and More app. If you have an **iPhone**, go to the App store and search for Endless Savings and More app. Install the app and open it. When prompted, the organization code is: psge. Enter your name and email address and agree to the terms and conditions. The discounts from the app will be updated on your phone.

Business Vendor	Location	Discount	Notes
24 Fit	412 Dewdney Ave. Regina	Save 20% on monthly fitness classes	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Co-operators Insurance	All of Saskatchewan	Phone 1-800-387-1963 to save up to 40% on home, condo, or tenant insurance	To redeem, mention SGEU when calling
Envision Floor Cleaning	645 Park St. Regina	10% discount on most items. Some exceptions apply. Consult store staff for details.	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Evolution Fitness	Regina	Go to <a href="http://www.evolutionfitness.ca/sgeu">www.evolutionfitness.ca/sgeu</a> to sign up for the discount	
Fabutan	145 15th St. Prince Albert	25% more minutes on package, \$15 spray tans and 15% off all products	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Fabutan	380 C 2nd Ave. N. Saskatoon	25% more minutes on tanning package, \$15 spray tans and buy a 30-day red light package and get an extra week free	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Factory Optical	All of Saskatchewan	Choose an offer: 40% off a complete pair of glasses; 50% off lenses; 50% off frames with the purchase of Rx lenses; 2 for 1 + one complete kids' pair free; 2 for 1 + free polarization	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Fitness Focus	1250 Ontario Ave. Saskatoon	No-contract memberships, zero annual fees, silver \$16 strength or fitness biweekly fees, gold \$21 biweekly, add childcare \$10 biweekly (for the family)	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Fountain Tire	1020 Victoria Ave. E. Regina	Save 10% on everything except dealer parts	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Fourth Avenue Vision Center	102 – 1114 22nd St. W. Saskatoon (SGEU bldg.)	Save 30% off frames when buying a complete pair	Show SGEU membership card at payment



Business Vendor	Location	Discount	Notes
Frontrunner Footwear	650 13th St. E. Prince Albert	10% discount on work footwear (black polishable)	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Gene's Cycle and Sport	270 32nd St. W. Prince Albert	Save 15% on all regular priced items	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Heritage Optical	4712 50th Ave. Lloydminster	Save 15% off frames and lenses	Show SGEU membership card at payment
P.A.C. – Pumphouse Athletic Club	27 B Second Ave. N. Yorkton	Save \$10 on the "Join the PAC" monthly gym membership	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Professional Western Computers	424 Victoria Ave. E. Regina	Save 10% on in-store labour only, valid one time only	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Rogers	All of Saskatchewan	Save 30% on Rogers smartphone programs	Identify as an ESM customer and contact Colin Moore
Sherwin Williams	All of Saskatchewan	Paint Perks: 10% off regular prices and 30-40% off prices on holidays	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Tasha's Day Spa	925B 11th Ave. Regina	Save 10% on hair, nails, pedicure, manicure and laser	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Telus		Exclusive deals for you! 0\$ smartphones and a 20% discount off select 2-year plans, conditions apply	
The Wireless Age	1401 Broad St. and 4131 Rochdale Blvd. Regina	\$30 off purchase of a new device and 20% off accessories	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Touched by Grace	2706 13th Ave. Regina in Head to Heal Wellness Center	Save 10% on reflexology, craniosacral therapy, hypnotherapy or reiki	Show SGEU membership card at payment
Travel Discounts	All of Saskatchewan	Save 10-20% or more on all hotels and car rentals around the world	
The Coronet	3551 2nd Ave. W. Prince Albert	Room rate of \$101.15 plus tax on regular room (two queens or one king)	To redeem call 306-764-6441 and ask for the SGEU rate
TTH Law Firm	2012 McIntyre St. Regina	Save 20% off tariff real estate fees and 10% off estate planning fees	Show SGEU membership card at payment

## Going paperless

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## Keep in touch

If your contact information has changed, please let us know so we can help keep you up-to-date on important union issues. Send an email to [mis@sgeu.org](mailto:mis@sgeu.org) with your current information.

## BARGAINING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Beaudry, John	Human Services	306-227-0687
Bennett, Janice	Support Services	306-867-7951
Bossaer, Lori	Chairperson	306-441-4601
Braniff, Merv	Trades and Technical	306-536-0503
Brown, Michelle	Support Services	306-425-9810
Bubley, Crystal	Trades and Technical	306-581-2842
Cook, Donna	Trades and Technical	306-470-7076
Cossette, Robert	Administration and Communications	306-527-3522
Deck, Devin	Vehicle, Equipment and Operations	306-961-6644
Dixon, Ian	Vehicle, Equipment and Operations	306-450-0833
Hart, Pat	Administration and Communications	639-560-0945
Krasko, Jackie	Support Services	306-551-4908
Larson, Verne	Legal, Inspection and Regulatory	306-535-3670
Leier, Bruce	Administration and Communications	306-235-7666
McCafferty, Corey	Human Services	306-270-9533
McKay, Tim	Vehicle, Equipment and Operations	306-240-4121
McLeod, George	Vehicle, Equipment and Operations	306-402-7141
McLeod, James	Legal, Inspection and Regulatory	306-725-8244
Petryshyn, Johnny	Legal, Inspection and Regulatory	306-814-0071
Rudd, John	Administration and Communications	306-961-5206
Sawatzky, Kevin	Human Services	306-221-4669
Schommer, Cal	Legal, Inspection and Regulatory	306-370-3334
Shortt, David	Administration and Communications	306-441-0455
Switzer, Sterling	Legal, Inspection and Regulatory	306-590-8339
Symchyck, Connie	Human Services	306-260-8759
Woytiuk, Curt	Support Services	306-531-7617
Zweifel, Lovyl	Trades and Technical	306-821-6194

## LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

De Ciman, Muna	1101	Regina	306-570-1568
Harvey, Jeff	1102	Saskatoon	306-881-9975
Trost, Mac	1103	North Battleford	306-441-3980
Vacant	1104	Weyburn	
Yuzik, Carol	1105	Prince Albert	306-940-8638
Cook, Earl	1107	Hudson Bay	306-470-7596
Miller, Ida	1108	Swift Current	306-661-8972
Achymichuk, Dale	1109	Wadena	306-338-8184
Goski, Denise	1110	Moose Jaw	306-631-4749
Neisner, Stephen	1111	Kindersley	306-327-2539
Vacant	1112	Nipawin	
Osborne, Cody	1114	Melfort	306-752-6214
Riabko, Shawn	1115	Kamsack	306-621-2705
Schwartz, Ernie	1119	Dorintosh	306-240-5055
Warriner, Jennifer	1120	Alameda	306-485-9868
Lockhart, Brock	1121	Denare Beach	306-688-0135
Hansen, Kim	1122	Buffalo Narrows	306-235-7738

## STEWARDS SUPPORT

Remember that your stewards are there to assist you if you run into potential problems in your workplace.

If you are called into a meeting with a supervisor or manager that you think could lead to disciplinary action, take a steward with you.

## NEW KILOMETRE RATE SET

The kilometre rate you will be paid for using a private vehicle for work was updated on April 1, 2019 in accordance with Article 15.3.3 of the PS/GE Collective Bargaining Agreement. The rates are as follows:

Ordinary: 45.14 ¢/km

North of 54th parallel: 48.61 ¢/km

The allowance payable to employees authorized on an incidental basis to use privately owned vehicles for government business is as follows:

Car – subject to a minimum allowance of \$5.00 per day, \$1.50 per hour (prorated for shorter periods) for actual usage to a maximum of \$6.00 per day or 45.14 ¢/km, whichever is greater.

Truck (only if used for hauling) – subject to a minimum allowance of \$5.00 per day, \$2.00 per hour for actual hauling time to a maximum of \$7.00 per day or 47.94 ¢/km, whichever is greater.