



WORKING
TOGETHER FOR
SASKATCHEWAN

REGINA HEAD OFFICE

May 27, 2021

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Honourable Don Morgan, Minister
Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Room 348, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK, Canada, S4S 0B3
Email: cic.minister@gov.sk.ca

Re: Paid sick days for all Saskatchewan workers

I write today to ask your government to take immediate action to bring in legislated paid sick days for all workers across Saskatchewan – and help fix the fact that *half* of Canadian workers have no access to paid sick leave.

While the lack of paid sick days was a problem prior to COVID-19, it is now a public health hazard.

Early in the pandemic, workers whose collective agreements or employers covered paid sick days were in privileged positions; they could choose to stay home when they were sick or feeling unwell, protecting their co-workers and others in the community from potential COVID-19 exposure.

Workers without paid sick days didn't – and still don't – have that option. They have to make the choice to go to work sick and potentially expose those around them to COVID-19 or another illness – or stay home without pay and risk falling behind on rent, bills or being able to afford essentials like prescriptions and groceries.

It has been more than a year since COVID-19 turned our world, and our workplaces, upside down. Your government has had more than a year to fix the fact that thousands of workers in our province have no paid sick days. And yet you have failed to act.

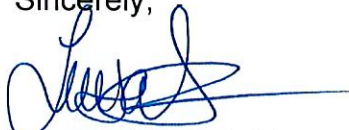
Across Canada, almost half (48%) of working people still must choose between going to work sick or losing pay if they become ill. For those with precarious employment – casual, seasonal, temporary, and on-call work – a staggering 87% do not have paid sick leave.

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As the Minister for Labour Relations and Workplace Safety, you have the power to change this reality and ensure that all workers have paid sick days. This is important not only for individuals, but for the safety of our workplaces, and the health of our communities.

It is time for your government to take action and bring in permanent, legislated paid sick days for all working people. Minister Morgan, will your government do the right thing and bring in this essential protection for working people across our province?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Sauer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Teresa (Tracey) Sauer
President