

# UNION matters

November 2017



## Stand together Saskatchewan



### *President's message*

The Sask Party government is trying to sell off our Crowns, cut public services, and demand wage cuts from public sector workers. But that's not what Saskatchewan is about and it's not the answer to the mess government created. Strong public services and Crowns have always been key to our economy and growth.

As you might have heard in the news recently, the finance minister indicated that the Saskatchewan government will no longer push for the 3.5% cut for this fiscal year. Your SGEU bargaining committees have been clear. We will not accept the proposed cut in wages. Workers at SaskPower have already voted overwhelmingly against taking such a cut, and other unions across the public sector have made it clear that their members won't accept it either.

But are we in the clear? Don't count on it. There are plenty of tools left in the government's austerity toolkit for "finding savings."

And once again, public sector workers are hearing about wage mandates first through

the media, rather than at the bargaining table. We first heard about the proposed 3.5% cut through the news. Now we hear that it's been postponed - again, through the news. This signals the continued politicization of our bargaining process. It has become a political volleyball for Sask Party leadership contenders - some saying they wouldn't implement the 3.5% rollback but would find other ways of realizing savings, others saying they would roll back wages *and* reduce the public service by 5%.

Public sector workers deserve better than political gamesmanship. [Continue reading...](#)

## SGEU in the news

[No 3.5% wage cut?](#) Sask. unions say they'll believe it when they see it.

Workers [deserve better than wage cut](#), disrespect from Sask Party.

SGEU calls for [publicly-owned marijuana retailer](#).

They're not going to agree to it: bargaining teams likely [to reject 3.5% wage cut](#).

Sask Finance Minister could "make ends meet" by [curbing wasteful spending](#) on consultants, GTH and more.

Labour and community leaders sign [October Declaration](#).

## Events

- **Dec. 6: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women:** A national day of action to commemorate the lives lost in the École Polytechnique massacre in 1989 and to take action to end violence against women. ([Regina event](#) and [Prince Albert event](#))
- **Dec. 20: Toolkit Workshop Series: Communicating Effectively Online (Regina):** Social media is constantly evolving. This workshop will demonstrate ways in which social media can be used as a tool for marketing, building connections, and engaging with the public. This half-day session is for people who want to use social media to reach a larger audience. It's designed for people who are ready to start using social media but aren't sure where to begin, and for those who have established a social media presence but aren't sure how to most effectively use various social media channels. [Registration required](#).

*Do you have an upcoming event you would like to promote in Union Matters? Send it our way at [comm@sgeu.org](mailto:comm@sgeu.org) and we will do our best to include it in the next newsletter.*

### *Member profile: Joanna*

Children's counselor with the Moose Jaw Transition House's Children Exposed to Violence Program:

"I recently had some kids come back and see me that I had been working with quite intensively. We



worked on safety planning: how to help them to feel safe, and how to trust the people around them to keep them safe. We worked on a lot of self-regulation tools-- deep breathing, muscle control, challenging their own thinking. They have since changed cities, they have started in new schools, and they've done extremely well. They're completely different kids from when I first saw them. They're more carefree. They're now acting more like children. There's a lot of peace there right now that I didn't see at the start. I love that I get to give kids tools to make their lives a

little better. I believe that-- even though kids have experienced violence, that hasn't written the rest of their story. There's a lot that can be done to change their story. And that's what I do-- help them change their story."

## Take action

- **We must protect our Crowns:** While the Sask Party has committed to partially repealing the Crown privatization bill, they are [still leaving a window open](#) to the winding down of our Crowns. That's why the SaskCrowns petition is still going strong and needs your help! [Print off the petition](#), ask your friends and neighbours to sign it, and send it in so that we can force a plebiscite vote on the future of our Crowns.

## Join us on Facebook and Twitter

Thank you to our followers on Facebook — we've reached over 2,000 "likes!" Join us on Facebook by "liking" the [SGEU page](#) and our [Keep Liquor Public page](#). Watch videos, share posts, and get the latest SGEU news delivered right to your newsfeed. You can also follow us on Twitter [@SGEU](#) for up-to-date union news and retweets from our followers and friends in the labour movement.

