

UNION matters

March 2018



Stand together Saskatchewan



President's message

As of February 2, Saskatchewan has a new premier. This is a moment of opportunity for the provincial government to create a healthier relationship with the labour movement compared to the one that prevailed over the past decade. It hardly needs to be said that the Sask Party under Brad Wall made many attacks on working people, and we spent a great deal of time fighting back. With Wall now retired from politics, Premier Scott Moe has a chance to take a different approach - one in which public-sector workers are treated not as enemies, but as the builders and caretakers of a stronger Saskatchewan.

However, I am not as optimistic as I was a month ago. Since becoming premier, Moe has given many indications that he plans to follow in Brad Wall's footsteps when it comes to cutting services. Moe and Finance Minister Donna Harpauer admitted recently that government will pay for the partial reinstatement of PST exemptions with a five percent workforce reduction in executive government and the Crowns. This is on top of the Sask Party's 2010 "Workforce Adjustment Strategy" that decreased the size of the public service by 15 percent over four years.

Meanwhile, the provincial population has grown by 11.6% and Moe has promised to increase the population even further, adding another 28,000 people each year until 2030. If Moe cuts the public service, who's going to do the work of providing vital public

services? Strong public services improve the quality of life for everyone in this province. And it's been proven that the valued work done by public sector workers saves the province money.

As for government's proposed 3.5% compensation cut, Moe was asked about this in an interview with CBC news on February 5, and he replied that it is important for people to understand "both sides" of the issue. I would be more than happy to fill the new premier in on our side of things [Continue reading...](#)

SGEU in the news

Saskatchewan people can't afford [Sask Party government's proposed cut](#) to the public service.

Documentary provides [behind-the-scenes look](#) at Saskatoon's Mobile Crisis Centre.

[SGEU disappointed](#) to see pot profits go up in smoke.

SGEU urges Moe to [alter course on pot wholesaling](#).

[SGEU adds its support](#) for publicly owned pot retailer.

Unions launch [People Who Care website](#).

Courthouse security dispute [still unresolved](#).

Events

- **Mar 7: Anti-cuts rally (Saskatoon)** - 12:00 - 12:45pm at the Saskatchewan Cabinet Office 315 22nd St. E. Join CUPE at their noon hour rally against the cuts! Bring your signs and flags.
- **Mar 8: International Women's Day:** Feminism is simply about equality - equality for women, men and people of all gender identities. Achieving gender equality means that everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential. This year's theme for International Women's Day is #MyFeminism, inspired by the role feminism continues to play in shaping Canada and countries around the world. From the early suffragettes to the activists of today, #MyFeminism celebrates the feminists who inspire others through their determination to make a difference. They are the activists, advocates, and allies who continue to lead the way towards positive change. This year, let's celebrate the feminist heroes who have helped pave the way towards equality. Add your voice to the conversation and tell us what feminism means to you using the hashtag #MyFeminism.

Saskatoon: Creative activities and storytelling [drop in event](#), film [screening event](#), and ["Press for Progress" event](#) March 10.

Regina: March 8 event with [Angela Davis](#), March 11 event with the [MacKenzie Art Gallery](#), and [SGEU Women's Conference May 9-10](#).

North Battleford: ["Press for Progress" event](#) March 24.

Swift Current: ["Press for Progress" event](#) March 12.

Medstead: ["Press for Progress" event](#) March 7.

Do you have an upcoming event you would like to promote in Union Matters? Send it our



Member profile: Laura

Crisis Worker

"I work with people who have serious mental illness. They have substance abuse issues, trouble with the law, they're often homeless, or have acquired brain injuries, and so they kind of fall through the cracks. Sometimes it's a matter of trying to connect with them until they trust enough. I might meet them for coffee, pick them up to do various things that they need to get done,

sometimes I help them get on assistance so they have some money, or assist them with housing. Some of our clients have become alienated from their families because of their illness, so we try to connect clients with their families again. It's very distressing for families, and they're often a forgotten part of the system. I can think of one woman who wanted help for her daughter before she died, and I was able to help her with that. And so she died in peace knowing that her daughter would be cared for. It's a real honour to be able to help people in distress. I mean, they're sharing something of themselves with you that other people may not see. And that's a gift to me."

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.

