

UNION matters

January 2019



Save the date: Women's March, January 19! The SGEU Women's Committee invites everyone to attend the upcoming Women's March in [Regina](#) and [Saskatoon](#). By participating, you will be part of a [national movement](#) to unify and empower everyone who stands for human rights, civil rights, and social justice for all. The movement seeks to inspire, unite, and lead the charge for the advancement of women across Canada.

President's Message

On behalf of SGEU, Happy New Year!

The start of a new year is always a good time to reflect on the challenges faced in the previous year, and to celebrate our successes. It's also a great time to look at the opportunities that lie ahead.

This past year, we saw our provincial government make decisions that weren't in the best interest of working people. 2017 kicked off with Premier Scott Moe promising to cut the public service by 5 per cent, and we responded.

By spring, Moe had given himself and Saskatchewan MLAs a 3.5 per cent wage increase, which saw their annual salaries rise from \$92,816 to \$96,183. Moe also approved an additional \$3,000 annual bonus for 13 legislative secretaries. These salary increases came at a time when many Saskatchewan families were struggling under rising costs, and when government was offering



zeros to our members at the bargaining table.

[Continue reading...](#)

Bargaining update

While many of our bargaining units continue to press for fair and reasonable contracts, we have not seen as much progress as we would like at most of our bargaining tables. While government originally took a hard line and demanded major concessions, it has since backed off from most.

The PS/GE bargaining unit, which has received a strike mandate from its members, continues to negotiate an Essential Services Agreement, which must be in place before job action can be taken. If you are a PS/GE member and have questions, please contact your local representative.

SGEU's Health Providers bargaining unit, acting as part of an association with SEIU-West and CUPE, has been in negotiations for a new contract since May 2017.

Several other bargaining units have ratified collective agreements. These include the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA), H.E.L.P. Homes of Regina, Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours (SIGN), RM of Meadow Lake, Cowessess First Nation and Moose Jaw Women's Transition Association.

SGEU in the news

Global Transportation Hub divestment has SGEU [questioning government's fiscal priorities](#).

[More waste and mismanagement](#) evident from the Sask Party government's privatization agenda.



Saskatchewan speaks

Our rally in October attracted hundreds of people wanting to know "Where did the money go?"

Bill Lawson worked for SaskTel for over 36 years. In [this video](#), he talks about the damage that he has seen the Sask Party government do to his community of Moose Jaw.

Watch, "like," and share the video!

Training opportunities

Register today for one of our upcoming Leadership Development courses!

March 4 - Leadership Development 10: Introduction to the Role of Steward

March 5 - Leadership Development 20: Respectful Workplace

Visit our [calendar of events](#) for more details and to learn about more SGEU training opportunities this spring!

Take action!

- It's time for a \$15 minimum wage in Saskatchewan! [Download the petition](#), **collect signatures**, and **return the petition to the SGEU head office**.
-

New membership cards

Have you received your new SGEU membership card in the mail? If not, please get in touch with us to update your contact information. Send an email with your mailing address, personal email address, and cell phone number to mis@sgeu.org.

Join us on Facebook and Twitter

Thank you to our followers on Facebook – we've almost reached 3,000 "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.

STAY CONNECTED

