

UNION matters

March 2019



Educated, Empowered, Energized! **SGEU Annual Convention April 24-27**

- Over three days of interesting speakers, vigorous debate on the issues, reports from elected leaders and standing committees, caucus meetings held by each sector, social activities, networking with members from across the province, and plenty of chances to learn more about SGEU and the labour movement.
- First-time delegate orientation takes place early Thursday morning. A new feature at this year's convention is a Quiet Room where you can take a mental health break or participate in religious or cultural practices.
- Don't forget to add your unopened hotel toiletries to the collection bins at convention, which will be donated to shelters after the event.
- Silent auction donations are welcomed. Drop off all items at the designated silent auction room at the convention. Please bring your wallets and a generous spirit to support our fundraising efforts!
- Reminder: Convention is a scent-free environment. Please do not wear scented products including perfume/cologne, hairspray, lotions, etc. to respect those with severe scent allergies and sensitivities.

President's Message

After a long, cold winter, we're finally seeing the signs of spring and that means crocuses start popping out of the soil, farmers are preparing to get out on their fields, and budgets were delivered by our federal and provincial governments.



I was cautiously optimistic at the legislature when I heard some of the promises made by the finance minister. The government appears to be finally listening to the concerns of our members and the general public about the harm inflicted by severe cuts to public services and staff over the last several years. The Sask Party has committed additional funding in a number of areas that will impact our members and the services they provide. This includes more money for new staff in corrections and additional funding for some CBOs and service providers working with people with intellectual disabilities. However, as we've come to learn with this government, the devil is in the details.

[Continue reading...](#)



You may have seen the new PS/GE billboards going up around the province in the last few weeks. For more information on the billboard campaign, please check out WhereDidTheMoneyGo.org.

The latest news from the Bargaining Table

As reported in the last issue of Union Matters, many of our bargaining units continue to press for fair and reasonable contracts, but we are not seeing as much progress as we would like at most of our bargaining tables. The government has backed off on some of its demands for major concessions but it is still taking a hard line at the bargaining tables, particularly on monetary issues and wage offers.

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**, working with our health coalition partners SEIU-West and CUPE, signed a Memorandum of Agreement earlier this month. The bargaining committee is holding information meetings and ratification votes throughout the three former health regions in March and April. To see where the meeting is in your community, [click here](#).

No matter which bargaining unit you're in, to ensure you get the most up-to-date information about your contract negotiations, **please be sure we have your current contact information, including a home email address and cell phone number**. To update your information, email MIS@sgeu.org.

SGEU in the news

SGEU reaction to the provincial budget: [Sask Party still has more work to do on restoring public services, signing collective agreements](#).

Ministry of Environment announces closure of front counter services at 19 of its field offices: [Government decision results in public sector job losses and reduced services to the public](#).

Prairie School for Union Women
June 9 - 13 at Waskesiu Lake



Tanya Turner, from our Education Sector, attended PSUW in 2018. She says "the week was jam-packed with opportunities to examine challenges facing women seeking leadership roles, learn from each other's insights and expertise and network with other SGEU members and union women from western Canada, while nestled in the beauty of Prince Albert National Park." Tanya highly recommends all union women apply to attend the [2019 Prairie School for Union Women](#). Click [here](#) to apply for sponsorship! (Deadline: April 5.)



Annual Bread and Roses Awards

Nominate someone today!

Do you know a woman who is deserving of special recognition because of the work she has done in the union? If so, [please nominate her for a Bread and Roses award](#).

The award is presented annually at the SGEU annual convention by the SGEU Women's Committee to two women in each of our six sectors. *Nominations close April 5.*

Education & Training opportunities

Register today for one of our upcoming training courses for SGEU members!

April 15 to 17 (Regina) - Facilitator Training

May 7 (Prince Albert) - Leadership Development 10: Introduction to the Role of Steward

May 8 (Prince Albert) - Leadership Development 11: Respectful Workplace

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

Take action!

- [Funding for Cornwall Alternative School](#), a Regina school for at-risk youth experiencing difficulties in a regular school setting, was eliminated in the recent provincial budget, which means it will close its doors in June if alternative funding is not found. **Contact Education Minister Gord Wyant to voice your concerns at (306) 787-7360 or minister.edu@gov.sk.ca.**
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are non-profit groups that provide vital services to vulnerable people in our province when direct government programs don't meet the needs of Saskatchewan people. **[Click here](#) to send a letter telling the provincial government that CBOs need stable, reliable, multi-year funding.**
- It's time for a \$15 minimum wage in Saskatchewan! Please **[download the petition](#), collect signatures, and return the petition to the SGEU head office.**

An Update for Members about Long-Term Disability (LTD)

As of Tuesday March 26, the SGEU LTD Plan can now accept online eTransfers from members for payment of LTD dues. Details about how to utilize this new payment option will be provided to each member as requested. Questions can be directed to ltd@sgeu.org.

Join us on Facebook and Twitter

Thank you to our followers on Facebook – we've reached almost 3,000 "likes!" Join us on Facebook by "liking" the [SGEU page](#) so you can 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.

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