

# UNION matters

Special COVID-19 Edition - March 2020

## The COVID-19 pandemic and you!

### President's Message

Hello Everyone:

I appreciate your patience as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. I'm grateful to those who continue to work on the front lines during this viral war — the value of the services you provide cannot be overestimated, especially during a crisis like this. You play a vital role in the lives of so many across Saskatchewan. Thank you.



Internally, SGEU is doing everything we can to flatten the curve and limit the spread of COVID-19. Meetings and gatherings have been cancelled or postponed. Personal contact with our staff has been limited as many are working from home and our offices are closed. However, staff can be reached by phone or email and are committed to providing the service you need.

The number of presumptive and confirmed COVID-19 cases in Saskatchewan continues to rise and the premier announced that the province is officially in a state of emergency. The government has directed non-essential service employees to work from home, but that's not enough — the people of our province need more!

[Read more . . .](#)

### COVID-19 information page on SGEU website

We have created a special page on the SGEU website where you can find important information about the COVID-19 pandemic and how it affects you as an individual, union member, employee and part of your community.



Please visit the webpage if you're looking for information or have questions. We will continue to update the page with new information as it becomes available.

You can find the COVID-19 information page [here](#).

Please "like" and follow us on our [Facebook page](#) to receive up-to-date information as well.

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## **SERVICE TO MEMBERS CONTINUES WHILE SGEU OFFICES ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

Effective immediately, the SGEU offices in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert will be closed to members and the public.

Staff will remain available via email or telephone.

In-person meetings will be arranged if absolutely necessary.

We remain able and committed to assist our members and provide the highest quality service possible through this difficult time.

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### **SGEU Meetings cancelled until further notice**

The COVID-19 pandemic requires everyone to practice social distancing and avoid gatherings, therefore all SGEU meetings are cancelled until further notice. This includes:

- Local meetings
- Standing Committee meetings
- Bargaining Unit meetings
- Committees related to bargaining (grievance committee meetings, etc)
- Attendance at Affiliate meetings (SFL, CLC, Labour Councils)
- LTD Supervisory Committee meetings

**CANCELLED**

Note: For Bargaining Ratification meetings and meetings deemed an urgent need, every attempt will be made to provide the information via conference calls and/or mail and email.

For information and advice related to holding meetings, events and other gatherings, please refer to [this link](#) on the Government of Canada website.

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#### **Education & Training opportunities for members**

All education and training programs for members are temporarily suspended until further notice, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and

#### **SGEU calls on provincial government to protect workers during pandemic**

SGEU [calls for action and leadership](#) from Premier Scott Moe and his cabinet.

guidelines put in place to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Bymoer [calls on government](#) to fund public services and protect public employee jobs.



## How to keep yourself and your family safe!

- Practise proper cough and sneezing etiquette (into the bend of your elbow);
- Wash your hands often with soap and water; if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Maintain safe food practices;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Avoid unnecessary travel to affected areas;
- Avoid large crowds and practice social distancing (do not shake hands, hug or kiss).

## Should you be tested for COVID-19?

Use this handy [self-assessment tool](#) to find out if you should be tested.

## Join us on Facebook and Twitter

Thank you to our followers on Facebook – we've reached over 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.

STAY CONNECTED

