

# Private corrections food services? No way! Make your voice heard! Meet with your MLA

## Privatization at our door

The government is opening the door to privatization of Saskatchewan's corrections and young offender facilities.

In January, 2014, the Ministry of Justice, Corrections and Policing revealed plans to privatize food services in the province's four adult correctional centres, as well as the Paul Dojack Youth Centre, Kilburn Hall Youth Centre, and the Prince Albert Youth Residence. This is the first step. Will corrections services be sold off piece by piece until the entire system is run as a private, for-profit business?

## You can help stop the privatization of corrections and young offenders' services.

If your local MLA is a member of the Saskatchewan Party, they are responsible for the actions of the government. They are also accountable to you – their constituent. Our best chance to stop this privatization is to put pressure on local MLAs – who have a duty to let cabinet decision-makers know what their constituents are saying about this plan.

## Here's how to let your MLA know that you oppose this privatization:

- **Locate your MLA** - If you don't already know, identify your own MLA. Visit the Elections Saskatchewan website at [www.elections.sk.ca/](http://www.elections.sk.ca/) where you can enter your street address and find your constituency and local MLA. Once you find your MLA, there will be a link to his or her website, where you will find contact information.
- **Contact your MLA** - Call or email your MLA. Say that you are a local constituent and that you have concerns you would like to discuss about the plan to privatize food services in corrections and young offender facilities. It is not necessary to identify yourself as an SGEU representative. Note: If your MLA is a member of the NDP, contact the Minister of Corrections, Christine Tell instead (ph. 306-787-4377 or [minister.cp@gov.sk.ca](mailto:minister.cp@gov.sk.ca)).
- **Set up a meeting** - Request a personal meeting with the MLA to discuss this issue. If you know of other supporters who live in the same constituency, you can go together. But remember, it is most effective if you meet with your own MLA. The more people who ask to set up meetings, the more pressure the MLAs will feel.
- **At the meeting** – Be polite and respectful at all times. Be prepared. Raise your concerns and ask your questions, but ensure that you listen for the answers. Ask

the MLA whether they will bring your concerns forward to the Minister of Corrections.

- **Keep track of the response** - If the MLA does not respond, or puts you off with excuses, we want to know about it. Keep track of your contacts and the responses. See 'Tracking your MLA contacts' sheet.
- **Telephone meeting** - If you can't set up a meeting with your MLA, the next best thing is a telephone call. Ask to speak to the MLA about privatization. If this isn't possible, talk to a constituency worker. Keep track of this information as well.
- **Send an email** – While it is most effective to meet to talk to your MLA on the phone, an email is also a way to make your concerns known. Be respectful. Ask questions that the MLA will need to respond to.

**Remember, MLAs have a duty to listen to and respond to the views of their constituents.**

If you have questions or would like more information, contact: SGEU Communications at [comm@sgeu.org](mailto:comm@sgeu.org).