

# Stop the privatization of food services in corrections and young offender facilities

## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR MLA

Your government is planning to privatize food services in Saskatchewan's adult corrections and many young offender facilities. I am strongly opposed to this plan.

- Cooks who work in public corrections and young offender centres are trained and experienced professionals. In addition to their work as cooks, they also provide certified training programs to inmates. They work side-by-side with inmates, and are often counsellors, tutors, and mentors. As public workers, they are trained and encouraged to provide this high quality service. If food services are handed over to a private, for-profit business, it is unlikely that inmates will receive the same level of training and support.

How can you justify taking away this training and support from inmates, who already have lost many programming opportunities?

Who will monitor a private company to ensure that minimum standards are met?

- The cooks in our corrections and young offender facilities are experienced in dealing with a high-risk environment where there is always a potential for violence. The safety of fellow workers, guards, and inmates will be put at risk if new, inexperienced, untrained staff are brought in as replacements.

How will safety of workers and staff be guaranteed if food services are privatized?

- Your government has said that providing food services to inmates is not a core function of government. Yet, inmates must be fed, and the service must be provided in a safe, cost-effective and responsible manner.

What evidence do you have that a private contractor can perform this service better than our public cooks?

- It is likely that a large corporation from outside Saskatchewan, and likely from outside of Canada, will be awarded the contract for food services.

How do you justify handing over taxpayers' money to outside corporations who are simply here to make a profit, and have no interest in re-investing in our province?