

UNION matters

July 2016



SGEU in action

As the provincial budget continues to make ripples and waves in our sectors, SGEU leadership needs to hear from you about what's happening on your shop floor. This is a chance for us to get organized, get communicating, and get responding to the various attacks on our membership.

Here's a list of cuts and changes that we are aware of so far that affect our sectors:

- \$7.5M cut to health administration
- Potential amalgamation of the health regions and school districts
- Closure of the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre
- Potential cuts to Meewasin Valley Authority and Wascana Valley Authority
- Major programming cuts to Saskatoon Community Mediation Services
- Staffing cuts to John Howard Society

In addition to these issues, the budget does not address:

- Restoring funding to the wildfire budget to 2010 levels, and additional funding in the face of increased risks
- Severe funding gaps in the Community Services Sector
- Loss of public revenue from liquor privatization

SGEU will continue to monitor the impacts of the provincial budget, and encourages the membership to contact their shop stewards and Sector leadership with further information. Read the full [SGEU budget news release](#) for more information.

President's Message

With the release of the provincial budget, we're one step closer to uncovering the direction this



government will take over the next four years. However, it's still unclear what is meant by "transformational change" across government. As we learn more about how the government intends to "transform" public services, we'll assess the impact on our members. We want to make sure that these changes don't alter day-to-day operations or affect frontline service. ([Continue reading](#))

The U in SGEU

Cal talks about reconciliation, healing, education, solidarity, and the union movement in this first of our video mini-series on members of the union and the communities they serve.

Share [this video](#) with your networks!



Take action to keep liquor public

So, it's finally upon us. We need your help.

With Bill 1 (the act that will pave the way to liquor privatization) making its way through our legislature, it's really important that you make sure to send in another letter to your MLA urging them to vote NO! Millions in public revenues and hundreds of SGEU members' jobs are on the line.

Fortunately, there's [this handy e-mail tool](#) to get you started.

It just takes two minutes of your time.

Head on over to Keep Liquor Public, scroll down to the letter, find your MLA, enter your information and click "Submit."

The more letters that are sent in, the more we can point to opposition to the Bill and call on the government to start listening.

Just like the letters that went into the recent hearings on liquor privatization - resulting in opposition outnumbering support at a 25 to 4 rate-- it's important that we do everything

we can to show the government that there is significant opposition to liquor privatization.

And you can do that by [sending your MLA a message right now!](#)

Make sure to join the [Keep Liquor Public Facebook page](#) if you haven't already for more updates and information to share.



SGEU joined in with CUPE Saskatchewan in its annual BBQ festivities in celebration of National Aboriginal Day.

Thank you to the hundreds of people who came out to celebrate with us in North Central Regina.

Special thanks to CUPE for having us join your event, to the SGEU FAIR committee for helping to organize it, to SGEU local 1101 for the use of its donut machine, and to the SEIU - West members who came and supported as well.

Check out a few of [the photos](#) from the day.

Open letter to President of Sask. Polytech

Dear Dr. Rosia,

I write on behalf of the members of Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Professional Services Bargaining Unit, and in the interests of the students we serve.

We are concerned about the significant increase in the number of managerial positions created at Sask Polytech over the last few years. This past academic year alone, the number of out-of-scope managerial position requests has increased dramatically. This brings the total from 113 to 150 - a 33 percent increase over 2014/15. Meanwhile, we continue to see cuts to our staff and programming.

We anticipate that the upcoming provincial budget will be a deficit budget, so now is not the time to be funding more management positions at the expense of students - the very people we exist to serve. The more bureaucratic layers created, the further we move from the priorities of our students.

[\(Continue reading open letter\)](#)

Who helps the crisis workers when they are in crisis?

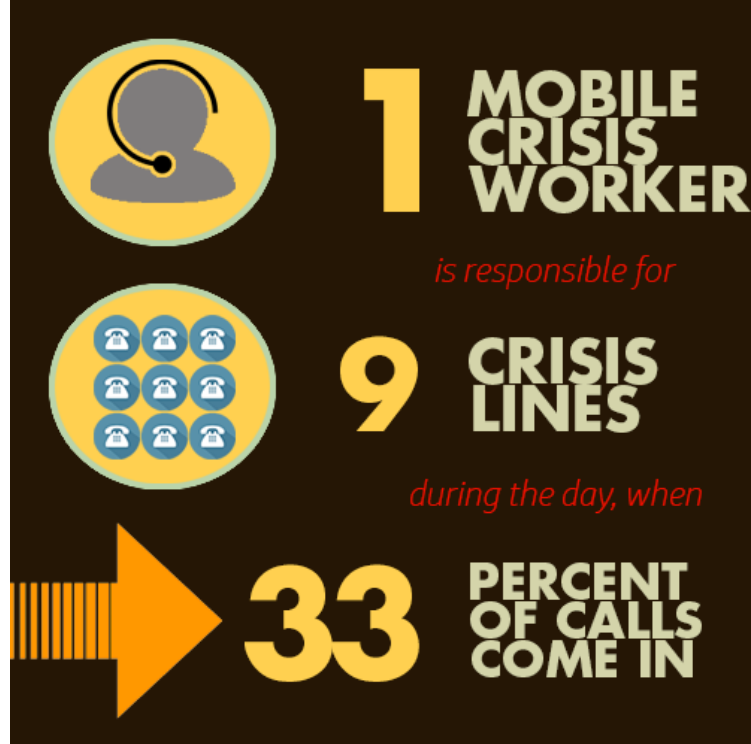
Regina Mobile Crisis workers continue to face a crisis in their workplace. Since the spring of 2013, there has been only one crisis worker scheduled to work the weekday shift, leaving only one worker on duty for a 7.5 hour period.

This person is responsible for 9 crisis lines, at a time when 33% of all calls come in. They are also responsible for walk-ins.

As you can imagine, these working conditions require crisis workers to make difficult decisions alone. Without having a partner to work with, in addition to being spread thin, the daytime crisis worker may have to delay helping a client in serious need because they're already tied up with another issue.

[Share this infographic](#) to help inform people about the situation crisis workers are facing!

[Check out the FAQ](#) for more information.



Liquor privatization threatens small-town business

Over and over, government has described its plan to privatize liquor sales in Saskatchewan as a way to create a "level playing field."

It seems to have forgotten what happened last time it privatized liquor stores. In 2014, public liquor stores in four small towns were shut down, and the right to sell liquor was handed over to a private retailer. For local business owners, like Murray Anderson of Anderson's Family Foods in Ituna, the resulting playing field was anything but level.

[In this video](#), Murray explains what liquor privatization did to his business - and what it will do to many more small businesses across Saskatchewan, if government pushes ahead with its privatization plan.

Closure of Buffalo Narrows narrow-minded

Ashley Daigneault and her colleagues gathered for a meeting in the kitchen at the Buffalo Narrows Community Correctional Centre with no warning that they were about to lose their jobs.

It was 2 p.m. on June 1st - the same time and date that Finance Minister Kevin Doherty was scheduled to table the provincial budget in the Legislative Assembly in Regina. In his address, Doherty announced that the Buffalo Narrows Community Correctional Centre would be closing. Fifteen people, including Daigneault, would be out of work as of July 31.

"I think everyone was pretty much in shock," recalls Daigneault. "Everyone kept asking, 'What are we supposed to do?'"

[\(Continue reading\)](#)



SGEU celebrates the graduation of Victoria Ordu, a Nigerian student who faced deportation over working a few hours at Walmart as an international student.

Ordu graduated from the University of Regina after a long struggle to be permitted to continue her studies, including spending over 500 days in sanctuary at a Regina church. Her story is one of perseverance, community, solidarity, and faith. Congratulations, Victoria!

Join us on Facebook and Twitter

Thank you to our followers on Facebook — we've reached over 1,000 "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.

