

**DAY OF ACTION
SAVE
LOCAL
JOBS!**

May 17, 2017



Whether it's a suggestion or forced by law, the people of Saskatchewan cannot accept this rollback or wage freeze because the impact on our local communities will be devastating.

Here's why:

- A 3.5% wage rollback is a 3.5% cut to your local grocery store and other local businesses. Educational assistants and care providers will have to cut spending which will impact their purchasing power and survival of local communities.
- For many in the public sector, this would put them back to 2014 wages and keep them at those wage rates until 2021, and for too many, wage rates have not kept the pace with inflation even through the boom.
- Rural communities will be especially hard-hit:
 - The average price of groceries is much higher in rural communities so the public sector workers who live in these communities will be further impacted by wage cuts and reduced purchasing power.
 - Health care and education jobs are often the backbone of rural communities – if these jobs are targeted, the whole community will suffer.

#STOPTHECUTS

The Saskatchewan Government has been under fire since March for their cruel budget which includes cuts to the hearing aid program, podiatry care, community pastures, and completely eliminated the STC.

Since then, they have introduced Bill 40 which legally permits our government to privatize up to 49% of our Crowns, like our SaskTel and SGI without a referendum. By privatizing, consumers will have to pay more in service fees, our revenue streams that fund health care and education will be reduced significantly and good jobs will be lost.

THE LATEST: We know the government had 'suggested' a wage rollback of 3.5% and a wage freeze for public sector workers – ***credible sources now indicate the government is planning to introduce legislation that will force the 3.5% wage rollback and four (4) year wage freeze on ALL public sector workers.***

Here's why the government should not suggest/impose wage rollbacks or freezes:

1. We cannot buy into the fiction that there's no money to fund education and health care. If the Saskatchewan Government can afford to reduce corporate tax cuts to the lowest in the country and payout failed P3 bids, it's clear this government made a choice to favour big corporations over our working people and their local communities.
2. By reversing the corporate tax cut (\$67.5 million), the government could restore the hearing aid plan, pastoral services, student aid and education funding – without having to rollback wages.
3. An MLA salary and an average Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) salary are vastly different – a base salary for an MLA is nearly \$100,000 – compare that to a CCA who roughly earns \$35,000. The impact of a 3.5% wage rollback on a CCA will drastically affect their ability to make ends meet – an MLA? Not so much.
4. By attacking wages, the government is acting against our own interests; lower wages mean reduced tax revenues which are used to help fund our local schools and health centres.

Support for government comes from making good policy decisions that benefit our communities.

We need to tell our government to make the right choice – reverse the cuts to our community programs and ensure public sector workers are not forced to pay for an unnecessary corporate tax cut.

#STOPTHECUTS