

Misguided plan for P3 schools

The EWSC, CUPE Sask and its members will urge the provincial government to abandon its misguided plan to use public-private partnership (P3) privatization schemes to build nine new joint-use schools and, instead, ensure schools remain publically financed, owned, and operated which is proven to be more cost effective, accountable, and guarantees that communities maintain control over their schools.

Because P3s are first and foremost about corporations making profit at the expense of taxpayers and, as a result, P3 schools cost more;

Because P3 schools are a form of privatization;

Because P3 schemes are often used by governments to hide public debt obligations. In reality, P3 contracts are debt payments and taxpayers pay for the higher costs of P3 schemes in the long term; and

Because P3 school experiments across Canada show that taxpayers are always on the hook to pay more. In a 2007 report on Alberta's experiment with P3 schools, Hugh Mackenzie revealed that for the cost of every two schools built under a P3 contract an additional school could have been built. Nova Scotia's Auditor General reported in 2010 that the experiment with P3 schools was a taxpayer rip-off. Last year, New Brunswick's Auditor General examined two P3 contracts for schools in that province and again found that public procurement would have been significantly cheaper.

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Submitted by: EWSC Executive Or Local 4754 (your choice)

Rationale for Emergency Resolution

The Government of Saskatchewan announced the construction of nine joint-use schools using public-private partnership (P3) privatization schemes on October 22, 2013.

Signature and position

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