

ONE collective agreement

FOR ALL education support workers

Did you know:

- CUPE represents just under 6,500 school support workers in 20 of the 28 school divisions in the province.
- Our members work as educational and teaching assistants, secretaries, library assistants and technicians, caretakers, bus drivers, computer technicians, social workers, community school co-coordinators, speech assistants, trades workers and other classifications.
- CUPE negotiates 24 different collective agreements with 20 school divisions in the K-12 sector, down from 58 collective agreements before school amalgamations. We also negotiate 2 collective agreements with a private school bus company.
- The negotiation of multiple contracts with individual school boards has created huge wage and benefit disparities across the province. In many cases, wage gaps of \$4 to \$5 per hour exist between school support workers doing the exact same work.
- CUPE education workers have been seeking provincial bargaining rights since the late 1970's. The goal is one collective agreement for all school support workers. The arguments for provincial bargaining are stronger now than they have ever been.
- In 1997, CUPE represented about 2,800 school board employees in just under half of the school divisions in Saskatchewan. The union now represents over 71% of the approximately 9,100 school board support staff in the province.
- As a result of organizing drives and school amalgamations, CUPE's representation could increase to 85% in the near future.

- Only about 60% of the school support workers represented by CUPE have 100% employer-paid extended health and dental benefits. Most rural school support workers pay half the cost of benefit premiums.
- In contrast, teachers have a comprehensive government-paid benefit package that includes vision, dental and extended health.
- School support workers need to be recognized and valued for the important role they play in our education system. This recognition must start by eliminating the significant wage and benefit disparities that exist across the province.
- The province continues to enjoy booming resource revenues and strong economic growth. For only a modest cost, the provincial government could help ensure fairness and equity for Saskatchewan school board workers.
- The fact that school divisions can no longer set mill rates and are dependent on the provincial government for funding places a greater responsibility on the government to provide fair and equitable wages for support staff.
- We believe that the public would support government funding for provincial bargaining. A recent public opinion poll conducted for CUPE by Viewpoints Research revealed that 67.3% of Saskatchewan residents support provincial bargaining rights for education support workers.
- CUPE education workers are committed to achieving the same provincial bargaining rights and provincial benefit coverage as Saskatchewan teachers and other public employees. It's time to replace the current fragmented system of negotiations with a modern, efficient process of provincial bargaining.
- We urge you to support ONE collective agreement FOR ALL education support workers.

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For more information:

www.saskedworkers.cupe.ca