



## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MLA!

**CUPE** / Canadian Union  
of Public Employees

### CUPE Health Care Council 2017

One thing everyone can do is contact their MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) to express concern about government policy. This can be done by telephone, letter, or email. The March 22 government budget unleashed dramatic cutbacks that affect every aspect of the public sector and Saskatchewan society. Choose one area of the budget that is most concerning to you and let your MLA know about it!

#### What good does it do?

Even if politicians are committed to their policies, they can't ignore it when hundreds or thousands of people are telling them to rethink what they're doing. At worst, it sets them back on their heels and lets them know they have a fight on their hands. It can even make them backdown on parts of their agenda. ***As CUPE trade unionists and health care workers, widespread public pressure dramatically increases our leverage at the bargaining table when negotiating wages and benefits.***

On April 7, 2017 thousands of people in more than 70 locations across Saskatchewan had "read-ins" outside MLA offices to protest cuts to public libraries. CUPE education locals are organizing to each "adopt an MLA" by scheduling weekly phone blasts, face-to-face meetings, and other actions. As health care workers, we can also join the fightback.

Everyone has a democratic right to express concerns to their elected representative.

#### I've never done this before. How do I start?

1. Find out which constituency you live in at this website:  
<http://www.elections.sk.ca/voters>
2. Find out who your MLA is. You can find the official list of MLAs online at this link:  
<http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/mlas>  
Click the names and scroll down to get their contact information: phone, email, and constituency office address. If your MLA is not a member of the Sask Party government (if they are in the NDP opposition), considering writing to Minister of Finance Kevin Doherty or Minister of Health Jim Reiter.
3. Choose you method of communicating: telephone, email or letter.

#### I'm not a good writer. What if I sound stupid?

As a health care worker, you have a lot of insight. If you are a parent, neighbour, or family member, you have a lot of knowledge. Don't worry about trying to impress anyone. Just express your concerns in simple language. **If you speak honestly and clearly, your message will be strong.** You can also call your MLA's constituency office and leave a message if you prefer not to write. ***Don't be afraid to speak up!!***

## Template for Letter to MLA

DATE

Name of MLA  
[Constituency Office address]

Dear (Minister, Mr. Ms. Mrs.) \_\_\_\_\_:

As a resident and a voter in your constituency, I am writing to you to express my concerns about [insert your concerns here].

[Here are a few ideas for topics. **Don't** pick them all unless you want to write a very long letter!

- Your experiences with short-staffing
- Your experiences with wages that are too low for your family to get ahead
- Public sector workers are not to blame for the deficit
- Cutting public services costs more in the long term and it creates unnecessary suffering
- The provincial budget punishes the most vulnerable people in society
- Privatization and contracting out reduces the quality of services and leads to poverty wages
- All Saskatchewan residents deserve access to quality health care, education, and affordable living conditions]

Sincerely,

Name  
Address  
Email address and/or phone number (optional)

AL/tg.cope491