



# together for better

Issue #4  
June 29, 2022

## CUPE 5430 BARGAINING UPDATE

Dear Valued Member:

Your Bargaining Committee continues to prepare for the next round of negotiations.

We recently spent four days reviewing the bargaining survey and assessing the 169 thoughtful and comprehensive bargaining proposals we received.

Wages were identified as your unequivocal priority.

And they should be, based on a presentation prepared by CUPE Research. We were informed that despite the gloomy financial reports the government keeps trying to have us believe, things are actually not so bad. Here are a few facts we learned:

- This year's projected deficit is \$463 million – last year the projection was \$2.6 billion
- The deficit is projected to be eliminated by the 2026-27 fiscal year
- The Conference Board of Canada, RBC Economics and BMO each project significant economic growth for Saskatchewan in 2022 with the average being 5.9%
- The Conference Board of Canada projects that Saskatchewan will lead the nation in economic growth
- The Provincial Budget is forecasting a 3.7% and 2.5% increase in real GDP for 2022 and 2023 respectively

Why all that good news for the provincial coffers? The answer is windfall resource revenues resulting from soaring potash and oil prices.

Meanwhile, the provincial forecast for consumers is a CPI increase of around 6% for 2022 and between 3.1% and 3.8% for 2023.

The takeaway? Don't believe all the doom and gloom because the rising cost of living is not affecting the government's pockets. In fact, the cost of gas, which is likely wreaking havoc upon your household budget, is at the same time improving the provincial financial outlook.

The real takeaway? You deserve more and they have more!

We also received numerous proposals regarding professional fees, and the need for parity with other unions under the SHA. There was also a significant number of proposals around the assignment of relief work and call back language, a clear message that this language needs to be improved.

We recognize how much work so many of you put into the proposed changes and the thorough and honest answers in the survey and we thank you so very much. We can't do this without you, and we look forward to your continued participation and support as we continue in the bargaining process.

Together, we can fight for better wages and working conditions.

– Your Bargaining Committee

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Bashir Jalloh (President) | - Linda Vancuren (R1)    | - Lori Sutherland (Staff) |
| - Linda Renkas (VP)         | - Sharon Paul (R2)       | - Mira Lewis (Staff)      |
| - Nancy Black (Rec. Sec.)   | - Rebecca Noble (R3)     | - Debbie Mihail (Staff)   |
| - Rhonda Osipoff (Treas.)   | - Adrienne Gardiner (R4) |                           |
|                             | - Corinne Sopel (R5)     |                           |