



September 16, 2022

[\(he.minister@gov.sk.ca\)](mailto:he.minister@gov.sk.ca)

Honourable Paul Merriman  
Minister of Health  
Government of Saskatchewan  
Room 204, 2405 Legislative Drive  
Regina SK S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Merriman:

CUPE 5430 was advised yesterday that the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has chosen not to honour September 19, 2022, as a paid holiday.

Please accept this letter as an indication of the Union's disappointment with the SHA's position and a request for the Ministry of Health to work with the SHA to reverse that decision.

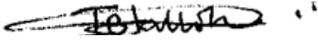
The Union has been having discussions with the Employers since long before the pandemic regarding short staffing. The Union has, for years, been calling it a looming crisis. During the pandemic, we began referring to it as a current crisis and a progressing crisis. A committee of several health care unions and health care employers was struck to work on the issue.

On September 7, 2022, your ministry announced a bold plan for recruitment and retention replete with a healthy budget. While we are happy to see that recruitment and retention is a priority for the Government and for the SHA, we, however, found that the announcement lacked any significant retention plans.

A little over a week later, the SHA was given an opportunity to signal to its employees that retention is as important as recruitment. It could have chosen to honour the day of mourning and given their overworked, overstressed, unhappy staff either a day off or an extra day's pay. It could have chosen to signal to their existing employees that the Employer indeed does care about them. That retention of the staff that have stuck it out all these months, that have answered all the calls to action for over two and a half years, is as important to the SHA as potential new hires.

CUPE 5430 is urging you to work with the SHA to reverse its decision and declare September 19, 2022, a single instance paid holiday in honour of the service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in honour of the service and dedication of these employees, these people, have provided under dire circumstances for so long.

Sincerely,



Bashir Jalloh  
President, CUPE 5430

C: Evertt Hindley, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors, and Rural and Remote Health  
Mark Brochu, Director of Bargaining and Interpretation, SAHO

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