



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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5.5 PER CENT REMAINS BEST OFFER FOR TEACHERS OUT OF ANY CANADIAN PROVINCE

The Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee responded with disappointment to the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation announcement that teachers have voted in support of job sanctions.

"We are disappointed that the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation did not give their members the opportunity to vote on the offer because it is the best offer for teachers out of any Canadian province," Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee spokesperson Sandi Urban-Hall said. "With our offer of a 5.5 per cent increase over three years, Saskatchewan teachers will have the second highest salary in Western Canada. It's fair, reasonable and competitive."

When determining offers of compensation, the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee does a thorough analysis of compensation packages for teachers from all other provinces as well as at supply and demand pressures.

Currently, teachers with a four year degree starting out in Saskatchewan earn \$46,419, which is \$1,000 a year more than the average of Canadian provinces. With this offer, that would increase to over \$49,000. After 15 years of service, a Saskatchewan teacher with a four year degree earns \$73,036, about \$3,000 more than the average of Canadian provinces. With this offer of 5.5 per cent that would increase to more than \$77,000.

The supply of teachers also exceeds demand in most specialties and locations. School divisions report the ability to successfully fill vacancies every year.

"There is no shortage of teachers," Urban-Hall said. "Here in Saskatchewan, we have experienced declining student enrolments for many years but the number of teachers employed has remained constant. We know other provinces, such as Alberta, are now experiencing mass teacher layoffs. And we continue to see a high number of new recent teacher graduates unable to find work in our school system. These are all things we take into consideration when determining competitive compensation."

The Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee is comprised of representatives from both the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association. The committee is responsible for representing the interests of both the publicly funded school system and the employer in bargaining negotiations with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. The Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee has successfully negotiated provincial collective agreements for teachers in Saskatchewan for more than 30 years.

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For more information, contact:
Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee
Regina
Phone: 306-787-1069
Cell: 306-533-7506