



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Strike Action May Impact Final Exams

The Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee (GTBC) is concerned about the impact on grade 12 students after statements made by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) last week. The STF stated they would not provide assurance that future strike action would not impact final exams for grade 12 students. This message came from the STF after they left the bargaining table again and gave official notice of a full general strike for Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

The GTBC has written to the STF asking for assurance that any job action in the coming weeks will not impact final exams.

"Saskatchewan students and families need a firm commitment that teachers will allow final exams to take place," Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee spokesperson Sandi Urban-Hall said. "We understand that the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation has a right to employ job action on behalf of their membership, but they also have the option not to choose dates that impact our grade 12 students. Impacting students at a critical time in the school year over unrealistic wage demands is unnecessary and I am sure teachers don't want this either."

School divisions will notify students and parents of contingency plans in place to support them during strike action and students and their families are being asked to contact their school divisions for more information.

"Our main concern continues to be for the safety and well-being of our students," Urban-Hall said. "We are willing to continue negotiations at any time, but we are again formally requesting that the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation offer assurances that any job sanctions employed between now and the end of the school year do not affect the ability of our Grade 12 students to receive their diploma and move on to post-secondary education opportunities in September."

"The Government Trustee Bargaining Committee values our teachers and wants to reach a new collective agreement", Urban-Hall said. "We went back to the table with additional resources to improve our original offer and with the intent to be flexible in the interest of concluding a deal."

The STF is still requesting an increase of 16.3 per cent over three years.

"This is unrealistic and demonstrates they are not willing to negotiate," Urban-Hall said.

Additional information on compensation can be found at www.skteacherbargaining.ca.

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.

For more information, contact:

Government-Trustee Bargaining
Committee Communications
Regina
Phone: 306-787-1069
Cell: 306-533-7506