



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2011

Strike Day Costing Students Valuable Class Time

The Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee responded with disappointment to the news the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation is staging a strike day instead of returning to the bargaining table.

"We are disappointed in the actions of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation," Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee spokesperson Sandi Urban-Hall said. "Instead of allowing its members a chance to vote on our offer, the union instead walked away from the table after demanding a 12 percent increase in one year. And now this strike day is costing our students valuable time in the classroom."

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.

"The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation is cherry picking numbers," Urban-Hall said. "The information we use comes from the Canadian Teachers' Federation. It's validated data. It's the information we agreed to use at the bargaining table. And it shows that Saskatchewan teachers already out-earn your average Canadian teacher with a four year degree. If teachers vote to accept our fair, reasonable and competitive offer, they will become the second highest paid teachers in Western Canada."

The average 2009 starting salary for a teacher with a four year degree for the four Western Canadian provinces is \$47,635. With our fair, reasonable and competitive offer, a comparable teacher in Saskatchewan will earn over \$49,000. As it stands today, a comparable teacher in Saskatchewan earns \$46,419, which is \$1,000 more than the average of Canadian provinces.

After 15 years of service, the average 2009 salary for a teacher with a four year degree for the four Western Canadian provinces is \$73,929. With our fair, reasonable and competitive offer, a comparable teacher in Saskatchewan will earn over \$77,000. As it stands today, a comparable teacher in Saskatchewan earns \$73,036, which is about \$3,000 more than the average of Canadian provinces.

The Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee is prepared to return to the table at any time.

"Unlike the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and its demand of a 12 percent increase in one year for teacher salaries, we do not have any preconditions for our return to discussions," Urban-Hall said. "In the meantime, our first concern is the safety and well-being of our students."

Students and parents are encouraged to contact their school divisions to learn more about contingency plans in place to support them during strike action.

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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