

Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union

Professional Services Bargaining Unit

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As you are aware from the media coverage this week, the provincial government's \$1 billion-dollar deficit has been front and center. The government has been very vocal that public sector employees are being targeted to reduce the deficit and is telling the public employers to look at capping employee compensation.

Your bargaining committee wants to make sure that our members understand what this means. A 'wage freeze' means that there would not be any increase to the salary that you currently receive. A 'compensation freeze' means that your salary won't increase **even if you aren't at the top step**. i.e. if you are at step 3; you won't be moving to step 4 as of April 1, 2017, (or possibly even longer).

An institute-wide compensation freeze would also impact on our extended health plan. Sask Polytech currently contributes 1.5% of straight time payroll to our plan, and if our salaries don't increase, then the plan won't either (but know that costs will continue to rise). Another benefit impacted by a compensation freeze is pension contributions. Both your own and the employer's contribution to the pension plan are based on your salary.

Your bargaining committee will be reaching out to our brothers and sisters within SGEU and similarly affected unions to form a united stand against the current direction being postured by the provincial government.

We will be sharing as much information as we can, as often as we can.

In solidarity,

Bonnie Bond, Bargaining Chair
Ryan Greyeyes, Saskatoon and Administrative Offices Chair
Shawna North, Moose Jaw Campus Chair
Cathy Van Goethem, Regina Campus A/Chair
Deb Zawada-Wiebe, Prince Albert Campus Chair
Kathy Mahussier, Labour Relations Officer, SGEU