



Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada

SOS Save our
Saskatchewan
Crowns

**IMPORTANT
YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION IS REQUIRED**

To: CEP Saskatchewan Locals

From: Wendy Sol WR Administrative Vice President

**CC: Jim Britton, WR Vice President
Don Boucher, WR Administrative Vice President
Saskatchewan National Representatives**

Re: Save our Saskatchewan Crowns (SOS)

The Government of Saskatchewan continues to push its ideology of privatization and actively pursues private companies to do business in areas that traditionally have been reserved for our Crown Corporations.

The Saskatchewan Party cites lack of expertise in the current Crowns and access to capital dollars as reasons for inviting private industry to get involved in the new and emerging products and services that will be instrumental to the future success of the Crowns.

CEP Locals in Saskatchewan have been meeting and developing a strategy to combat the daily attacks on our Crown Corporations. We recognize that it isn't an accident that Saskatchewan is able to weather this economic storm. In large part it is due to the Crowns and their ability to provide services at lower costs enabling those businesses to be highly competitive. And let us not forget the good paying jobs through out the province that keep communities alive and sustainable.

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A piece of the CEP strategy was to survey our members. Preliminary results indicate that our members strongly agree their union should be involved in preserving the Crowns and that privatization is not necessarily inevitable. Our members are saying we should be fighting privatization of Crowns and their spin-off businesses. The government's strategy is long term - or at least three years until the next election. Accordingly our strategy must also be long term and sustainable.

The Save our Saskatchewan Crowns (SOS) Coalition has been created with a formal structure including a Steering Committee comprised of interested CEP Locals. The goal ultimately is to expand the coalition to include other community organizations to ensure creditability, sustainability and to spread support.

Another important component of the Coalition is to have a full-time Campaign Coordinator. We appreciate the amount of work this campaign will require and the need for undivided focus to ensure its success. This will require significant resources.

The National Union will provide office space in the Regina National office along with access to the photocopier, phone, office supplies and clerical support. The Research Department in Ottawa will also assist the campaign with material. In June the National Executive Board will consider our request to financially support the campaign in accordance with the Defense Fund rules.

At this point the Steering Committee has estimated that the campaign will require \$8,000 per month to support a full-time Coordinator and some minor campaign expenses. This does not include the cost of advertising or the hiring of a professional polling company that will be required at some point during the campaign.

If every Local in Saskatchewan assessed each member **only \$1.00 per pay period** that would be enough to sustain a full-time campaign coordinator. I realize this request is unprecedented. However we face the reality that Saskatchewan risks losing our prized Crown Corporations - all in the name of profit.

Locals should consider applying an assessment for a couple of reasons. It is the first step in educating our members as to the important work of the campaign when they ask why the extra dollar was deducted off their pay cheque. The assessment is tax deductible. An assessment will alleviate the pressure of an on-going financial commitment to the already-strained budget of your Local.

Your National Representative is prepared to attend your Local or Executive meetings to help explain or answer questions regarding the coalition.

The SOS Crown Campaign/Coalition is an ambitious strategy and very exciting. This is another example of how CEP Locals and members really know how to step up to the challenge and make a real difference in the lives of the people of Saskatchewan.

Please let your National Representative know if your Local is able to contribute and to what extent. The Steering Committee is currently hiring a Full-Time Coordinator and they will need to know if this is sustainable.


I appreciate your Local considering this request and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or your National Representative.

Thank you,

In Solidarity,

Wendy Sol
Administrative Vice President
Western Region

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