

## ***Media Release: Canadian Blood Services Is Bleeding Us Dry!***

**Saskatoon** – SEIU-West members and their supporters were sharing information with the public outside of the Hilton Garden Inn in Saskatoon this morning. This is where the annual Partners for Life Breakfast was being hosted by Canadian Blood Services (CBS). This event is intended as a recruitment effort to engage with donors.

“This is an outreach opportunity with donors in our community,” said Barbara Cape, President of SEIU-West, “and we are here because we want donors to know that the SEIU-West members who work for CBS in Regina and Saskatoon have been without a collective agreement since March of 2017. They should also know that CBS continues to refuse adamantly to provide their staff with stable, predictable hours of work. This makes it impossible for our members to make ends meet without taking on either a second or third job. We see this lack of commitment to their staff as unfair.”

SEIU-West negotiations with CBS have been stalled since June of 2019. The members have provided their bargaining committee with a strike mandate near the end of 2019.

Cape added, “Our members provide the full range of blood donor care and other support services. They are the kind face that receives each donor and they provide professional care including confidential screening, phlebotomy services, and they ensure the safe handling, processing and transport of blood and blood products. It is our members who ensure that the people of Saskatchewan have access to a high-performing blood system they can trust and respect. This is incredibly important work.”

“We believe that the time is now for the public to join our calls for CBS to treat their staff fairly. This employer needs to deliver on their promise of the opportunity for rewarding careers at CBS. It is our goal to have donors show their support for our members and the work they do – it’s as simple as accessing our on-line campaign and sending off a letter to CBS decision makers. This can be done by visiting our website: [seiuwest.ca](http://seiuwest.ca).”

SEIU-West represents over 13,000 people across Saskatchewan. They include people who work in health care, education, municipalities, community-based organizations, retirement homes and other sectors. They are joined by one colour – purple – and one union – SEIU-West. Purple works in our communities! Visit [PurpleWorks.ca](http://PurpleWorks.ca) to find out more about SEIU-West members.

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