

## MLA Letter Template/Phone Call Speaking Notes

To \_\_\_\_\_ (MLA name),

I know our government has mandated that all public sector employers propose concessions for workers who provide invaluable services like health care and education. As a health care worker who is currently bargaining with SAHO, we have been faced with a series of unacceptable concessions proposed by the employer that will amount to a 3.5% overall reduction AND a wage freeze for three years.

An attack on any wage is an attack on local communities. By reducing my ability to make ends meet, I will not be able to spend my earnings in local businesses and services. By reducing wages, you're actually undermining our combined interests, as fewer tax revenues means fewer dollars to fund our government programs, such as health care and education. Rural communities will be particularly impacted by a 3.5% wage rollback and three year freeze, as goods and services are more expensive in these communities and often, the local health centre or school acts as a base for good jobs to ensure the survival of rural communities.

We must not have Saskatchewan people in a race to the bottom – we need to ensure living wage jobs stay in the community, and offer opportunities for people to make ends meet.

It is important for you to remember that your MLA salary – a base salary for an MLA is nearly \$100,000 – in no way compares that to a Continuing Care Aide who earns roughly \$35,000. The impact of a 3.5% wage rollback on a CCA will drastically affect our ability to make ends meet – an MLA? Not so much.

Public health care is a source of pride for the people of Saskatchewan and yet it is constantly underfunded, as demonstrated by chronic short staffing and recruitment issues. By adding more pressures, such as concessions and rollbacks, you are chasing people away from the valuable work that health care workers provide. How many of us will be able to afford working in this sector? Working in health care is stressful and demanding – many of us are getting burnt out due to short staffing and often, our ability to access vacation is affected as a result of staffing levels. By adding more pressures, you are putting our public health care system and those that staff it at risk.

As my MLA, I am asking you to ensure public sector workers are not forced to accept any wage rollback or freeze. Please retract the mandate given to public sector employers that they must reduce costs by 3.5%. I cannot buy into the fiction that there's no money to fund education and health care. If the Saskatchewan Government can afford to reduce corporate tax cuts to the lowest in the country and payout failed P3 bids, it's clear this government favours big corporations over our local communities. So instead, I ask that you reverse the corporate tax cut so we can ensure the schools, hospitals, and jobs in our local communities are supported.

Can I count on you to do what's right?

I look forward to your response,

(Name/Address)