



www.SEIUWEST.ca

COPY

September 6, 2013

The Honourable June Draude
Minister of Social Services
Room 346, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK
S4S 0B3

The Honourable Dustin Duncan
Minister of Health
Room 315, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK
S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Draude and Minister Duncan:

RE: Community Based Sector – Wage Re-opener Negotiations

It has been brought to my attention that many of our SEIU-West members employed in the community based sector (CBO) are experiencing roadblocks and delays in the implementation of your government's December 17, 2012 funding announcement. This special annual funding of \$17.34 million, effective February 1, 2013, to assist in the retention and recruitment of direct care staff was a commendable investment; one that we understood would translate into a much-needed compensation lift to the lowest paid front-line staff who provide a valued role in the delivery of critical services to vulnerable adults and children across the province. SEIU-West recognizes that the December announcement was likely a proud moment for both of you and your government, as this sector has experienced the reality of under-funding for some time. To be clear, it is not our intent to diminish the value of this special funding commitment.

SEIU-West has been actively attempting to negotiate wage adjustments, based on this funding announcement, and in conjunction with wage re-opener provisions. There are a number of CBO employers where we have received modest proposals (at best) from the employer. Surely you must agree that the \$17.34 million per year should translate into more than a 1% general wage increase. Some employers have dismissed the notion that the funding commenced on February 1, 2013, and have refused to provide adjustments retroactively.

Our growing concern is that there is no accountability for the additional funding provided by your government to these particular CBO employers without your oversight of their implementation strategy. We understand that your government does not interfere with the collective bargaining process, however, when you make public announcements of this nature, surely there must be a check and balance in place to ensure that the monies are received and are spent in accordance with the mandate provided. Our review of the Government news release on December 17, 2012, lends to our belief that: "Eligible organizations will be asked to provide information on their current staff and wage levels, and to identify how they will direct the investment to their front line workers. Money will be available after February 1, 2013, once

Saskatoon Office:

200 - 747 46th Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6A1
Phone 306.652.1011
Fax: 306.652.1392

Moose Jaw Office:

39 Athabasca Street West
Moose Jaw, SK S6H 2B6
Phone 306.693.7922
Fax: 306.692.2807

Swift Current Office:

333 Central Avenue North
Swift Current, SK S9H 0L5
Phone 306.773.2536
Fax: 306.773.7535

SEIU-West is a Scent Free Workplace

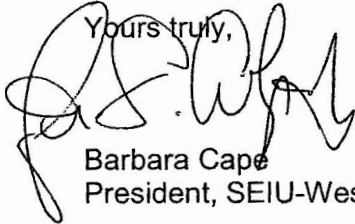


the organization's plan is submitted to Social Services or Health as appropriate."

Please advise whether you are amenable to meet with me to discuss whether such plans have been received (and approved) by select CBO employers that we continue to struggle with. It has been almost a full year and we would like to move forward with full implementation of this special funding. At present, our members are quite bewildered as to where the money is – if it is not being resourced (through the wage re-opener process) as announced and intended.

Thank you for your timely reply to my request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Cape', written over the typed name.

Barbara Cape
President, SEIU-West