

July 30, 2013



The Honourable Brad Wall Premier of Saskatchewan 3475 Albert Street Room 226, Legislative Building Regina, SK S4S 6X6

Dear Premier Wall:

RE: Privatization of Laundry/Linen Services Health Care Sector

I would like to share with you the enclosed letters from our SEIU-West members expressing their concern about the recent public announcement by 3sHealth to privatize public laundry and linen services within the health care sector. Please find enclosed 383 individual signed letters. Also, note that two of these letters contain an additional 246 signatures of support, for a total number of 629 members who have voiced their concern.

SEIU-West and its members agree with the Ministry of Health and Government of Saskatchewan position about the importance of proper infection control and staff safety being paramount to the provision of safe health care. Our members, who operate on the front line of healthcare, experience first hand the impact of quality laundry services on patient care.

Based on their experiences, our members believe that laundry and linen services should remain within the control of the Regional Health Authority. This will ensure that quality and cost control standards are maintained and that necessary volumes are accessible on a 'just in time' basis.

We are deeply concerned about the continuation of current laundry and linen service quality issues, the potential cost over-runs and the additional burden placed on the taxpayers in the province with a private model, and the resulting impact to the overall healthcare system.

Finally, our members are quite concerned that the savings K-Bro Linen Systems Inc. has promised will result from inferior terms/working conditions, such as have been established previously by K-Bro through alleged collusive tactics.

BARBARA CAPE President

SHELLY BANKS
Vice-President

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Our concern is that rather than creating stable jobs and careers that allow workers to focus their efforts on efficient production and quality products, K-Bro's demonstrated track record of extensive reliance on a peripheral workforce and temporary foreign workers will have a negative impact on the timely supply of quality Saskatchewan health care laundry and linen. We would ask for you and your government's insistence to K-Bro, that the quality of jobs K-Bro is prepared to provide to the citizens of this province not be compromised by their stated goal to extract maximum shareholder profits without fetter.

We write to you in advance of the conclusion of negotiations between 3sHealth and K-Bro Systems to request that you consider these matters and advise whether your government will investigate the written concerns shared in good faith by our members.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly

BARBARA CAPE

President SEIU-West

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Enclosures

cc:

Cam Broten, Leader of the Opposition SEIU-West Executive Board

Bob Laurie, Director, Contract Bargaining & Enforcement, SEIU-West Shawna Colpitts, Director, Political Action & Education, SEIU-West

Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health