

Mourning the Loss of Valued Public Services

Saskatoon – Members of the SEIU-West Young Workers Committee (YWC) held a satirical public memorial service at Kinsmen Park in Saskatoon today to oppose the many destructive government cuts the people in this province have experienced.

“We are saddened by the lack of common sense and compassion our government has shown in their policy and budget decisions over the past few years,” said Janell Kachuik, member of the SEIU-West YWC. “But we are pleased by the support we see here today because we know that by working together, we can show our government that there is a demand to make decisions that benefit all our communities.”

The provincial government’s budget cuts to social services like the elimination of the rental housing supplement, the decrease in funding for post-secondary education, and the continued destabilization of our education and health care system have made it harder for people of all ages to thrive.

“People are struggling,” added Bryce Kovatch, member of the SEIU-West YWC. “We have one of the lowest minimum wages in all of Canada; we have one of the highest tuition rates; and our public services, most recently legal aid, continue to be cut.”

SEIU-West young workers are deeply concerned about the future of their province. Funding cuts to valuable public services severely affects people’s ability to make ends meet and get reliable support in their communities.

Our citizens are continually asked to pay more out of pocket while large corporations continue to enjoy the lowest corporate tax rate in Canada and pay less and less into our province’s coffers.

“This government and many others need to stop giving handouts to their corporate buddies while slashing our valuable public services,” added Barbara Cape, President of SEIU-West. “How can young people enjoy the same standard of living we’ve enjoyed when all the gains our predecessors have worked for have been stripped away?”

SEIU-West represents more than 13,000 working people in the province of Saskatchewan. They include members 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!

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