



November 26, 2021

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Friends:

RE: UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC SERVICES SUSTAINABILITY ACT (PSSA)

This week the Manitoba Government officially withdrew the Public Services Sustainability Act – PSSA (known as Bill 28 or the wage freeze Bill).

What does this mean for CUPE members?

With the withdrawal of the PSSA, there should be no reason for any employer to push the government's 0%, 0%, 0.75%, 1% wage mandate.

The government should no longer interfere with free collective bargaining, and public sector employers should be free to negotiate with workers and their unions.

This is an important victory for workers in Manitoba, and we should all be proud of the fight CUPE members made against the government's wage freeze legislation.

However, as we can see with the Rolling River School Division, some employers are still trying to push unfair wages on workers, and CUPE Local 1630 members are on the picket lines right now fighting for a fair deal.

The same is true for 18,000 CUPE health care workers who are in a strike position, and ready to take a stand for fairness.

CUPE will continue to push back against any employer who attempts to table unfair wages. We are ready to fight at the bargaining table, and on strike.

Background:

In 2016 the Pallister government introduced Bill 28 in an effort to freeze wages for workers.

Unions joined together in a Partnership to Defend Public Services (PDPS) to fight back against the regressive law.

As part of the Partnership to Defend Public Services, CUPE took the government and the PSSA to court. Last year the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench ruled that the PSSA was unconstitutional. The Manitoba Government then brought it to the Court of Appeal, which reversed the Court of Queen's Bench decision.

Since then, the PDPS has filed for our case to be heard all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. We still feel it is important for the highest court to determine whether a government can interfere with free collective bargaining – a constitutional right for workers and their unions.

For more information on the PDPS and the fight against the PSSA, visit the Manitoba Federation of Labour at www.mfl.ca

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina McKay', with a stylized, flowing script.

GINA McKAY
President
CUPE Manitoba

lb/cope 342