



CEP Press Release

Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada

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Drastic cuts ahead for Public Service and Crowns

One of Saskatchewan's leading unions says the cuts to the public sector announced in this week's budget are based on ideology and not about providing service to the people of Saskatchewan.

"This isn't about efficiency, it's about an ideology that disdains the public sector and its importance to Saskatchewan," said Wendy Sol, an Administrative Vice-President with CEP.

The Saskatchewan Party government announced in its budget that it wanted to become more efficient in delivering government services and service through the Crown corporations and agencies. The stated goal is a 15 per cent reduction within four years. Premier Brad Wall's budget argues that efficiencies will be realized through attrition and that the cost to deliver service "*will drive staffing decisions*".

Announcing reductions of 15% at the end of four years is arbitrary and based on ideology rather than the facts, said Sol. Worse, the government continues to attack Crowns by imposing cuts even as it undergoes efficiency studies. The government is making reductions to Crowns before it even has any information indicating they need to be reduced.

"The people of Saskatchewan said they support the Crowns but this government ignores public sentiment," said Sol.

The government has already commanded SaskTel, SaskEnergy and SaskPower to sell out-of-province assets. Premier Wall recently signed a secret privatization power deal with Ontario-based Northland Power.

CEP represents about 10,000 working people in Saskatchewan and tens of thousands coast to coast in energy, paper, telecommunications, graphical, media and construction.

For more information contact: Wendy Sol, AVP, at (204) 781-3386 (204) 988-1402