



May 9, 2019

Grain and General Services Union
2334 McIntyre Street
Regina SK S4P 2S2

Re: SASKATOON CO-OP STRIKE

On behalf of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1400 striking workers at the Saskatoon Co-op I thank you for your support and generosity. For over 5 months these workers made a commitment of exceptional solidarity as they braved some of the most extreme weather conditions Saskatchewan has witnessed in over 80 years. Day after day they were subjected to name calling, harassment from scabs and management to cross the line, security guards taunting them, and rude drivers who crossed the picket line endangering our members' lives as they sped past them. It was as much a mental struggle as it was a physical one.

I can tell you it was your support, both financially and on the picket line that kept them going, lifting their spirits with the thoughts that others really do care and understand the importance of why they had to stand up for their rights and the rights of others.

The agreement was voted on with a slim majority that ended the dispute leaving many as you can understand with feelings of mixed emotions and rightfully so. A two-tier wage grid was introduced into the Saskatoon Co-op affecting most of the classifications but not after the employer conceding on its original position by offering smaller cuts to the wage grid and a mechanism for new hired employees to bridge the wage gap based on profits of the Co-op. All employees will receive increases on all the scales for the next 4 years, full retroactivity pay for the last 3 years and signing bonuses. This would not have been achieved if not for their conviction and your support.

When peaceful negotiations cannot resolve disagreements, wars are likely to rage and throughout the war battles take place and gains are made and lost. The members of UFCW 1400 have experienced both and dealt with them with pride and dignity and you stood behind them all the way, for that I thank you deeply.

For workers the battles never end and the war always continues.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Norm Neault'.

Norm Neault
President
UFCW Local 1400



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