

S.T.A. Political Letter Writing Campaign

(November 2006)

Last month, the S.T.F. Fall Council expressed overwhelming support for a strong bargaining stance in the next round of Provincial negotiations. This position includes a 5% minimum salary increase in each negotiated contract year. As our bargaining team prepares itself for talks with the government and trustee team, it is imperative that teachers do their part to help. Many of you have completed the on-line survey which will help define priorities for our bargainers. However, monetary issues are often the most difficult to negotiate. The government will set its budget long before our people ever make it to the table. In fact, now is the time when government departments are drafting their budgets and establishing priorities.

You can assist our negotiators by communicating with provincial politicians and outlining the reasons why sufficient funds must be set aside for education so that a satisfactory settlement can be reached. Make no mistake; letters are an extremely effective method of political action. This coming year will witness an election in Saskatchewan, and all parties will be keenly attentive to interest groups that carry political influence. The teachers of this city and province certainly have that influence, and this is the time to most effectively exercise it.

You will find included with this letter, a brief guide to effective political letter writing. You will also find background information which may be useful in your individual correspondences. A contact list of M.L.A.'s, Ministers, and party leaders is included as well.

It is your right to telephone, e-mail or write to your political representatives. Make your correspondence reflect your situation and priorities. The compelling presentation of the many realities that teachers face will help to win an acceptable contract. You are encouraged to forward copies of your correspondence to your association. It goes without saying, that we need to have our voices heard loudly and clearly by those in charge of provincial education. I strongly urge you to participate and make a significant difference for teacher welfare.

J. Morari

STA Public Relations, Political Involvement Chair