Day One of Negotiations

Yesterday, the Teachers’ Bargaining Committee and the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee met at the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation building in Saskatoon to open negotiations.

The composition of the TBC and the GTBC have changed so introductions were in order. The GTBC is now comprised of:

**Government Representatives**

- Don Hoium, GTBC Chair (Ministry of Education)
- Gerry Craswell (Ministry of Education)
- Rick McKillop (Regina)
- Dave Spencer (Swift Current)
- Sandra Barager (Regina)

**Trustee Representatives**

- Jaimie Smith-Windsor (Waskesiu)
- Tim Jelinski (Saskatoon)
- Darren McKee (Executive Director, Saskatchewan School Boards Association, Regina)
- Lori Kidney (Tisdale)

The principles to guide interactions and discussions at the table were discussed and accepted. Both committees expressed their commitment to find common ground and work as productively as possible towards a new provincial collective bargaining agreement.

Both committees also believe that the good of students and public education are at the forefront of any collective bargaining discussions.

**During discussions with the GTBC, the Teachers’ Bargaining Committee clearly stated its intentions to be open and transparent to teachers by providing them with updates following each day of negotiations.** The TBC shared that because collective bargaining is so important to teachers and the Saskatchewan public education system, it is necessary that teachers be informed as to the progress of negotiations.

Informational binders were created by the Federation and distributed to both committees. A review of the binder contents provided an overview of teacher bargaining legislation, STF collective bargaining policy, the principles to guide proposal development and other related information.
The TBC also presented its *Objectives for Teachers’ Provincial Collective Bargaining* to provide an opportunity for the GTBC to review the information in preparation for future negotiations. Class size/class composition and compensation were clearly identified as the priorities of teachers, and the TBC indicated the importance of engaging in an interest-focused negotiation process in order to fully understand such complex issues.

Dates have been established into December in order to ensure negotiations move forward.