



Update

Stewards - Please circulate and post

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FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (FSA)

The Joint FSA Committee is currently in the process of finalizing the details concerning the Flexible Spending Account Plan, and expects that it will be rolled out to employees around the third week of October. Members will have the opportunity to direct their funds towards five main options, including PEPP (if a member), Centennial RRSP, Medical Plan Health Spending Account, Home Computer Purchase Program, and Wellness Account. Full details pertaining to the FSA Plan and the various fund options will be made available to employees around October 22nd. Members are encouraged to read the information carefully to enable them to make an informed decision regarding the allocation of their funds.

WHERE ARE THE COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS?

Many members have been asking that very question. CEP and SaskTel are currently working on proofing the new agreement and expect to complete this work over the next couple of weeks. Unfortunately, the new management structure that was just announced by SaskTel last week could potentially cause further delays, due to the changes in management titles that are listed in Article 1. Once this issue is sorted out and the proofing is complete, the final document will be sent to the SaskTel print shop where the new Collective Agreement will be printed and sent to each employee through interoffice mail.

CONTRACTING OUT FACILITY TECHNICIAN WORK

Over the summer months, SaskTel advertised tenders in many of the provincial newspapers that called for contractors to bid on work that is done by Facilities Technicians at SaskTel. The Local offices as well as the CEP National office received several calls from Facilities Technicians concerned about their future with the Company.

In a meeting between CEP and SaskTel in September, the Bargaining Committee was informed that SaskTel had done a study around the costs and benefits of contracting out this work. We were also told that SaskTel has made a decision to keep this work in-house, although they did not rule out the possibility of the work being contracted out at some point in the future. The Facilities Technicians throughout the province can breathe a big sigh of relief for now, but it must have been a very stressful summer for those members knowing that their work could be contracted out with a blink of an eye.

CEP is pleased with SaskTel's decision on this issue, and the members can rest assured that we will continue to push the Company to keep this and all other work that is performed by our members within the scope of SaskTel and the bargaining unit.

UPCOMING PROVINCIAL ELECTION

A provincial election has been called and we will be going to the polls on November 7, 2007.

As many of our members will be aware, there have been recent statements by certain politicians with regard to the possible sale of Saskatchewan's Crown Corporations. CEP would like to remind the membership to ask each candidate in their riding what their position is on this issue. We firmly believe that selling off the Crowns or stopping them from competing with the private sector will be bad for both SaskTel and the employees that work there.

We only have to look at the province next door to see what happened when the government of Manitoba sold off MTS. MTS was a Crown Corporation held by Manitobans. Today the majority of MTS shares are held outside the province, sending money elsewhere that would have otherwise stayed in Manitoba to help the local economy. CEP Local 7, which represents the Clerical staff and Operator Services at MTS, has seen its members lose good-paying jobs as MTS downsized to become more "efficient." In the past year alone, MTS has shed 325 jobs. Additionally, MTS sold off its Media division to Montreal-based Yellow Pages Group which resulted in the immediate loss of 22 jobs.

Over the next few weeks you will be hearing more about the election issues from the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour as well as CEP.