



May 16, 2024

The Honourable Everett Hindley, E.C.S., M.L.A.
Minister of Health
Room 204 – Legislative Building
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Hindley:

I write to you today regarding the letter you have been sending to Saskatchewan health care workers who have written you regarding their cost-of-living concerns. Without question, the cost-of-living crisis has made it harder and harder for our 14,000 CUPE members providing invaluable health services and care in communities across the province to get by.

To say your letter was disappointing is an understatement. At our meeting mere weeks ago, we shared significant concerns about health care provider working conditions, the exodus of health care workers from our health system and the inability for them to keep up with the cost-of-living. It is frustrating that you do not appear to have heard these concerns, as you are now writing letters to our members suggesting that affordability measures dating back to 2007 and a budget decision to not further hike taxes on Saskatchewan people somehow helps people who are struggling today.

At our meeting, I shared our cost-of-living report with you for review, and now have some follow-up with the following questions for you as Minister:

- Are you comfortable with the fact that 86% of our members reported cutting back their grocery budget to make ends meet?
- Are you comfortable with the fact that 70% of our members reported their household finance as poor?
- Are you comfortable with the fact that our members, who are the backbone of the health system, reported skipping meals and alternating monthly bills because they can't afford to get by?

The answer to these questions should unequivocally be no. Which leads me to my final question – what do you and your government plan to do about it? Rather than penning letters that minimize and trivialize the concerns of those health workers writing to you for help, I suggest your government finally develop a plan to retain Saskatchewan health care workers we still have and bring a deal to the bargaining table that recognizes the importance of our health care workers and helps them manage the cost-of-living crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bashir Jalloh".

Bashir Jalloh
President, CUPE 5430

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