

CUPE COMMUNIQUE

Canadian Union of Public Employees **CUPE.ca**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Release: Saskatoon public library workers reject tentative agreement

SASKATOON: Today, CUPE 2669, representing Saskatoon public library workers are announcing they have voted to reject the tentative agreement offered by the employer. Members entered negotiations focussed on improving health and safety measures and increasing wages to match the cost of living. The tentative agreement was rejected because it did not adequately address these concerns.

Library workers are seeking improved health and safety measures in the collective agreement, for the benefit of both library workers and the public. One important measure which was not addressed in the tentative agreement was the provision to ensure that no employee will have to work alone at a service point.

“There has been a dramatic increase in violent incidents in libraries. Unfortunately, we haven’t seen a corresponding increase in safety measures from the employer to address these issues,” said Paige Yellowlees, communications coordinator for CUPE 2669. “Not only is it unsafe for library workers to work alone, but it directly impacts the level of service we can provide for our patrons. Our workers and the public deserve changes that make them feel safe at the library. The employer needs to step up with meaningful action to make libraries safer.”

The local is currently in a legal strike position. The previous collective agreement expired in June 2023. In June 2024, members voted 95% in favour of job action, up to and including a full withdrawal of services.

30 -

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