

March 6, 2015

Premier Jim Prentice
Office of the Premier
Room 307, Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Prentice:

In your speech to the Rotary Club of Edmonton on March 2, 2015, you told Albertans, including union members working in provincially funded jobs, about your general policy on public-sector spending and your plan to establish a working group that will consider changes to the way public-sector negotiations are conducted in Alberta and the need to introduce essential services legislation compatible with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

As the presidents of the four largest public sector unions, we were pleased that you recognized in your remarks that our members, and Alberta public employees, generally are Canada's hardest working public employees and that Albertans should be proud of the excellent work they do.

We are writing today to acknowledge the need for this discussion to take place between you, as the premier of Alberta, and the leaders of Alberta's public sector unions. We take very seriously the issues of how public-sector negotiations are conducted and the rules governing the delivery of essential services to Albertans, and view them as inextricably linked.

As a consequence, we are prepared to meet together with you to discuss the position of your government, the views of public sector union members, and the direction we should take to reach a solution that is fair to public employees and all Albertans, and that is in accord with the Canadian Constitution. We must insist that the meeting be with you, because you are the official who is clearly setting the Government of Alberta's agenda on this policy, in addition to whatever officials you wish to bring.

We are confident that this meeting about the government's policy plans between the premier and the elected leaders of Alberta's public sector unions can set the stage for effective work by the government and public sector unions on the future of public sector labour relations in Alberta.

In advance of the meeting, in order to do our part, we require the answers to four questions:

- 1) What is the detailed breakdown, by union, of the \$2.6 billion you stated in your speech would be the cost of scheduled public-sector salary increases over the next three years?
- 2) Which unions does the government intend to include under the negotiating umbrella of the province's planned public-sector bargaining body?
- 3) Which employers (Alberta Health Services, public non-profit continuing care organizations, private non-profit continuing care organizations, for-profit corporations and others) does the government intend to include under the negotiating umbrella for the province's public-sector bargaining umbrella?
- 4) Which employee groups does the government intend to be covered by its new essential services regulatory regime?

We thank you for your attention to this letter and look forward to meeting with you to discuss these important issues.

Yours truly,



Guy Smith
President
Alberta Union of Provincial Employees



Marle Roberts
President,
Canadian Union of Public Employees Alberta



Elisabeth Ballermann
President
Health Sciences Association of Alberta



Heather Smith
President
United Nurses of Alberta

c.c.: Ric McIver, Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour
Tim Grant, Deputy Minister of Justice

Guy Smith
President
Alberta Union of Provincial Employees
10451 – 170 Street NW
Edmonton, AB
T5P 4S7
780-930-3300
g.smith@aupe.org

Marle Roberts
President
Canadian Union of Public Employees Alberta
300, 10235 124 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5N 1P9
780-484-7644
mroberts@cupe.ca

Elisabeth Ballermann
President
Health Sciences Association of Alberta
10212 112 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5K 1M4
780-488-0168

Heather Smith
President
United Nurses of Alberta
700, 11150 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 0C7
780-425-1025
hsmith@una.ab.ca