



A message to AEEC members:

The provincial election is next week and the outcome will have a big impact for education support workers.

The current UCP government set a bargaining mandate of real wage cuts for education support workers. In 2019 the UCP government even changed the law to allow themselves to tie the hands of the school boards and set these wage mandates.

Right now, we are facing at the bargaining table a provincial mandate that will maintain poverty level wages. The mandate of 2.75% total over 4 years far less than inflation and will leave us further behind at a time when we desperately need to get ahead.

We have our own mandate \$2 / hour increase, each year, for four years. We are prepared to fight for fair wages that recognize the importance of our work. But we know our path will be much easier if we vote in a NDP government that will scrap the mandate and respect collective bargaining.

Over the past four years the UCP government has cut funding for important programs like PUF and funding has not kept up with enrollment growth. Each of the last 4 years, the UCP government has cut education funding. This isn't because Alberta can't afford to fund education and pay education support workers fairly. The most recent budget had a surplus. It also included \$117 million dollars of new funding for charter schools and new transportation funding for private schools. This new money for charter and private schools would more than pay for a \$2 / hour increase for 4 years for all CUPE education support workers.

This election I am voting NDP to scrap the mandate, and I urge you to do the same.

[RSVP here to vote to scrap the mandate on May 29.](https://www.weworkforalberta.ca/scrapthemandate)

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Advance polls are open from May 23 to 27 and election day is May 29. You can find more information on where and when to vote on the [Elections Alberta website](#) or the [Alberta NDP website](#), or [Your Vote Plan \(afl.org\)](#)

Joanne Lavkulich
AEEC Chair