



## Most Co-op locations remain open throughout strike action

(Nov. 1, 2018) While UFCW Local 1400 employees have decided to exercise their right to strike, Saskatoon Co-op will serve its members and customers with reduced hours at most of its locations.

“Our stores provide core services in many of the communities where we operate,” said CEO Grant Wicks. “We want to let our customers know that we’re keeping our doors open to serve you, and we appreciate your patience as we continue to work toward an agreement with the Union.”

Saskatoon’s retail landscape has changed significantly over the past few years, with new competitors entering the market, which is challenging long-standing local businesses. Despite these challenges, Saskatoon Co-op came to the table with a fair offer intended to protect current employees’ wages and benefits while at the same time ensuring the long-term success of Saskatoon Co-op.

“Our current wage ranges are as much as 25 to 35 per cent higher than our competitors, which isn’t sustainable in the long-term. The wage range that we’ve proposed to the Union still allows us to compensate our new employees as well as or even better than our competitors,” said Wicks.

Saskatoon Co-op has not locked employees out and welcomes employees who would like to continue to work to cross the picket line. Saskatoon Co-op will continue to bargain in good faith and will return to the bargaining table Friday.

Co-op Pharmacies will continue to fill customer prescriptions and provide essential services at five locations. Customers are asked to call in refill orders 48 hours in advance when possible, with free delivery to any home address within Saskatoon and Warman.

The Co-op Food Store and Co-op Gas Bar at Centre locations will remain open with normal business hours as those employees are represented by Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) Local 480.

Full details on open locations and hours will be shared through [www.saskatoonco-op.crs](http://www.saskatoonco-op.crs).

### **About Saskatoon Co-op**

Saskatoon Co-op is a retail co-operative that has proudly served Saskatoon and area for more than 82 years. Today, Saskatoon Co-op serves more than 116,000 members — and many more customers — in Saskatoon, Warman, Martensville, Colonsay and Watrous where it operates 30 locations. Since 2013, Saskatoon Co-op has returned more than \$53 million to its members in cash back and equity and paid over \$215 million in wages, while contributing over \$2.5 million to community organizations and initiatives.

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