

In Canada, unions have played such an instrumental role in the lives of labourers across the country since 1872. In the early days of union's, they were created to help fight for the rights of workers and still hold true to these values to this day. CUPE 4784 has done the same thing that those first unions had set out to do. I can say this from experience, from when my mother went on leave due to medical reasons, CUPE 4784 was there to offer assistance. I am very appreciative of this due to the fact that my mother was able to keep her job, enabling me to focus on school and not worry about her job situation. This is amazing because I have successfully graduated from Melville Comprehensive School and am going to the University of Saskatchewan at the College of Engineering. I would not have been able to do this if it was not for the encouragement of my mother and opportunities that presented themselves in school.

When my mother had received the news that she was diagnosed with breast cancer our family was devastated. For a 14-year-old in 2015 I had no real idea what this would entail. Now that I am older, I realize the gravity of the situation that was at hand. My mom explained to me later how CUPE 4784 had been very helpful the first time she had to go through her cancer treatment. She explained how she was able to phone up the union and ask many questions about her leave and what exactly it would entail. Moreover in 2019 my family found itself again in the same situation. Both times the union helped with information and with monetary gifts to make those trips to Regina for treatment just a little bit easier.

This was and has all been going on since I have been in grade 8. I have worked very hard to get where I am to this day; taking extra classes in grade 11 to make grade 12 just a tad easier and taking Calculus in grade 12 to make the transition to university easier. In grade 11 I had many different opportunities in school. I was able to go to court with my school and see how the provincial court works. I was also able to go to the Court of Queen's Bench for a provincial mock trial competition in 2018 and 2019. Moreover, in October of 2018 Warren Kaeding invited two students, one of which was me, to attend the throne speech at the legislature in Saskatchewan. All these experiences were eye opening to see how the world runs every single day and what it takes to keep it all moving. Schooling is not the only thing that I have worked for these couple of years. I have also worked towards my National Lifeguard certificate. Grade 10 is when I started to work towards getting all the proper certificates to become a lifeguard. This included getting a certificate in Aquatic Emergency Care, a certificate as a Saskatchewan Pool Operator, and a certificate as a National Lifeguard. In the coming years I hope to continue to use my swimming certificates and soak up all the experiences university has to offer.