

Backgrounder: Broten pledges to stop Wall's education cuts

The current reality:

- The Prairie Spirit School Division announced that their \$3-million budget shortfall will result in 75 teacher and educational assistant layoffs.¹
- Education Minister Don Morgan publicly attacked the board for announcing that during an election campaign.²
- The most frequently cited “sources of stress and dissatisfaction” for teachers include “overwhelming workloads” and “large class sizes.”³
- The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation acknowledges that “large class sizes” present “significant barriers” for students.⁴
- The Sask. Party cut 350 full-time equivalent educational assistant jobs between 2007 and 2011.⁵ With school enrollment rising, the ratio of educational assistants-per-student has dropped dramatically.

Cam Broten's plan:

- Hire 300 more teachers
- Hire 300 more educational assistants
- Restore the mid-year adjustment to properly fund enrollment after the start of the school year
- Improve funding for school divisions
- Work with school boards to set caps on class sizes, starting with Kindergarten to Grade 2
- Double funding for Early Childhood Intervention Programs
- Increase funding for Early Childhood Development Programs by 50 per cent
- By Year 4, when fully implemented, these commitments are an additional \$56.5 million in spending⁶

¹ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2774364-Parent-Communication-Prairie-Spirit-Budget-2016.html#document/p1>

² <http://thestarphoenix.com/storyline/update-former-education-minister-don-morgan-and-prairie-spirit-spar-over-75-job-cuts>

³ Teacher Time: A Study of the Challenges of Intensification of Saskatchewan Teachers' Professional Time. Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and Saskatchewan Instructional Development and Research Unit. December 2013. https://www.stf.sk.ca/sites/default/files/teacher_time.pdf

⁴ Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. Governance Handbook. July 2015. https://www.stf.sk.ca/sites/default/files/stf_governance_handbook.pdf

⁵ <http://yourfairshare.ca/files/2011/09/Union-blasts-EA-cuts.pdf>

⁶ https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/saskndp/pages/1259/attachments/original/1458574835/NDP_Fiscal_Plan-2.pdf?1458574835