

EDUCATION ASSISTANT CUTS

and so it begins.....

Davidson Summit Meeting

January 2010.....

CUPE Education Locals receive copy of Ministry's
"Enhancing Opportunities Through Full-Service Divisions"

Document calls for the number of Educational Assistants
to be reduced

“Enhancing Opportunities”

Expectations of reductions are provided by timelines and ratios

Public document was released by the Ministry to all school divisions in the fall of 2009

CUPE's Reaction

CUPE broke the story to the media in January 2010

NDP followed with a media release condemning the
Ministry

John Gormley

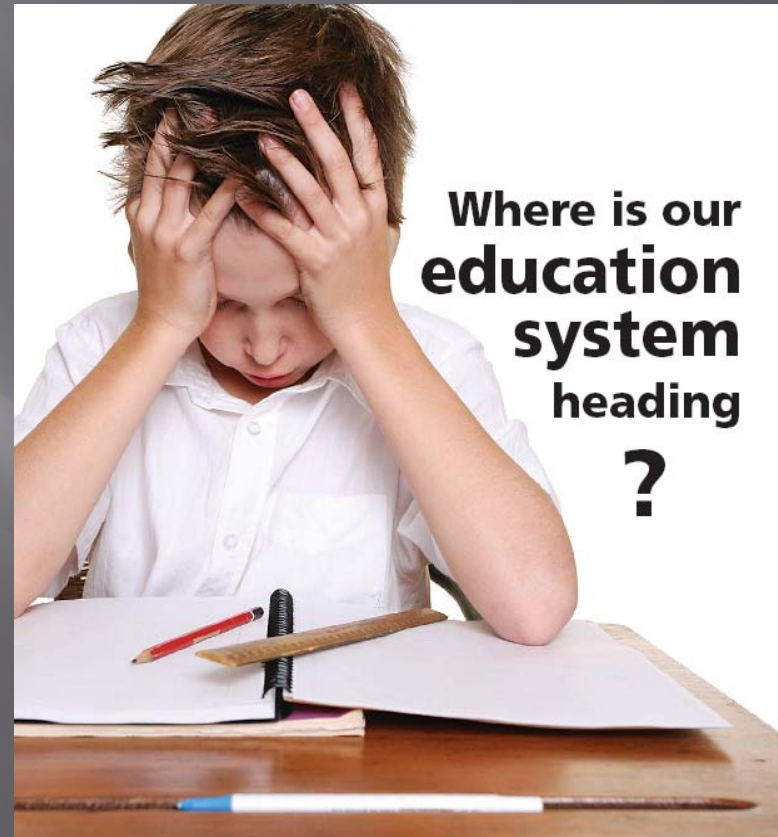
The Ministry conveys mixed messages about their document on the talk show

Darren McKee, Assistant Deputy Education Minister admits the government is looking at the “7- year plan” outlined in their document

Minister Krawetz states that there is “no government policy reduce Education Assistants in Saskatchewan”

Into April 2010

- ▣ Over 45,000 CUPE EA leaflets are distributed across the province
- ▣ Regina public forum is held
- ▣ Ministry of Education requests a meeting with EWSC on the heels of the public forum release



**Where is our
education
system
heading
?**

**A government plan
to cut Education Assistants
has many people worried.**

Education Minister Krawetz



“...there is no direction from the Ministry that says there must be a reduction or a ratio of any kind met”

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hansard Verbatim Report No. 42

Pg. 1146

May 10, 2010

But wait.....

The Ministry of Education facilitated a
“Provincial Meeting Workshop” with
Student Support Superintendents in
December 2009

Topic for discussion?

“Reducing paraprofessional supports (EAs) and
increasing professional supports”

....and the Ministry also states

“Continue development and implementation of school division service delivery model and staffing profile that support learners requiring intensive supports, utilizing research-based ratios of appropriate supports and data-guided decision making”

Reductions continue.....

May 2010....

41 FTE cuts announced for
Prairie Spirit School Division
due to a “budget shortfall”

Over 200 people attend public forum in Warman to
demand answers for the reductions

June 2010....

EWSC gets ear of Ministry regarding the EA cuts

Cue the Media

October 2010.....

Parents across the province speak out in protest on
CBC's "Blue Sky" radio program

Billboards are displayed in Regina



SFL on board



SFL features the cutbacks of Education Assistants as a labour issue in their leaflet

Off to the Leg

Parents,
former students
and
EWSC members
attend Question Period
to hear
NDP Education Critic
Pat Atkinson question
Education Minister
Donna Harpauer
about the cuts to EAs



So what does this all mean?

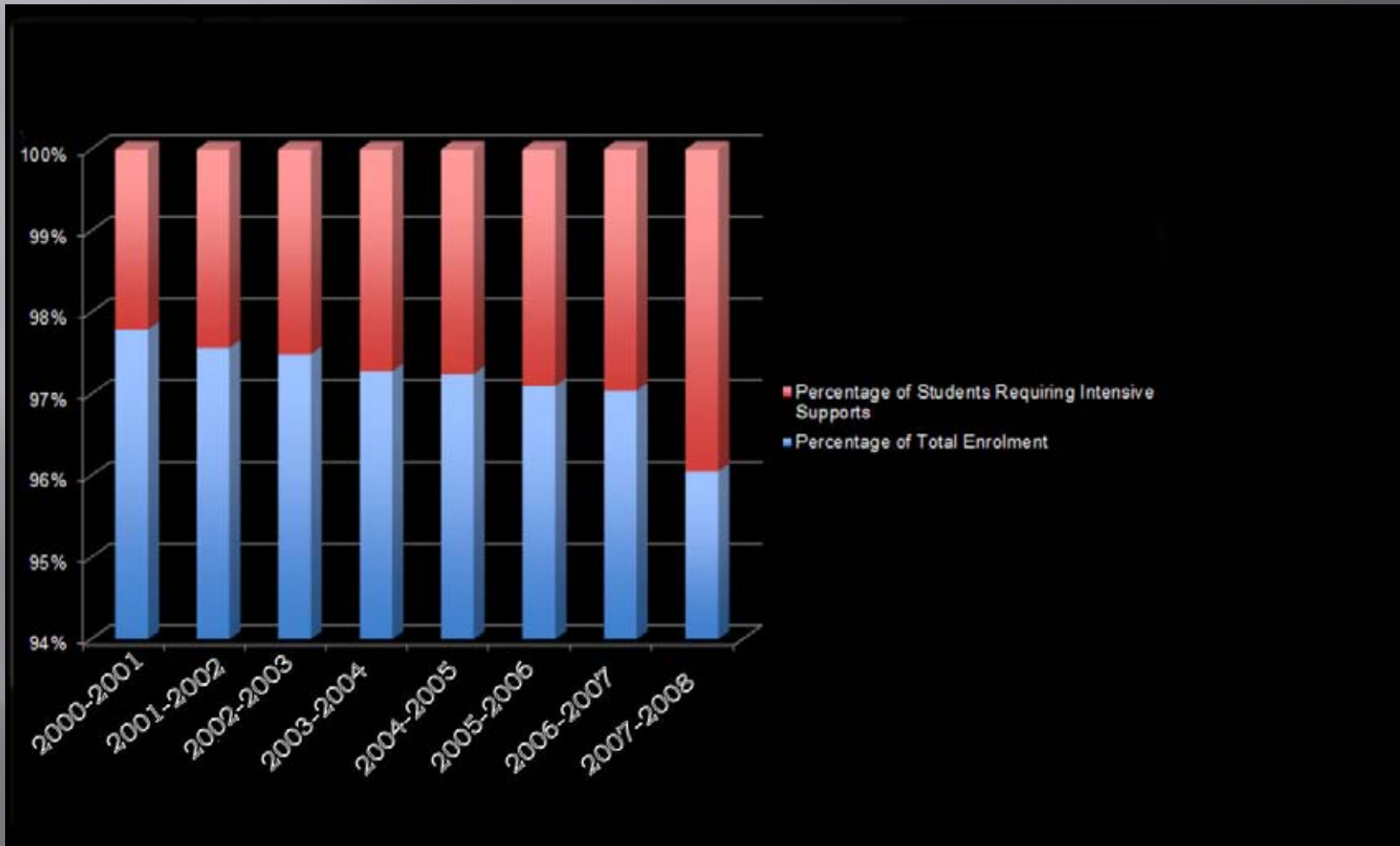


**School shouldn't
look like this.**

**Stop the cuts
to education assistants.**

CUPE / Canadian Union
of Public Employees

The number of students requiring supports has more than doubled since 2001....



....and yet

Over 60% of Saskatchewan school divisions with CUPE locals have made cuts to Education Assistants from 2007-2010



So who replaces EAs?....

“Peer support is a well-researched, evidence-based practice”

“When a student requests help, redirect the student to ask a peer”

“Asking a peer should be the norm for all students”

“Ask 3 students before me (teacher)”

THE GOLDEN RULE OF PROVIDING SUPPORTS IN INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS

Ministry of Education Provincial Meeting Agenda with School Division Superintendents of Student Services

December 9, 2009

The old way vs. the new....

The Ministry of Education states:

“Change challenges the status quo”

“There is movement from a dependency-based paraprofessional model to an independent-focused professional model”

“There is a movement away from an “entitlement” model”

“Parents want what they have always had”

TRANSFORMATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TO STUDENT SERVICES IN SASKATCHEWAN

Ministry of Education

November 2008

So what can you do?

Be aware of what is happening in your school

Ask questions

Contact your MLA

Contact the Ministry of Education

Together

We
can
make
a difference