













jobs, our health, and our dignity,” it continued.

“Albertans do not stop needing health care based on whether the economy is down or on an upward trend,” Azocar said. “Public health care and robust public services are not a special interest. They are in the best interest of each and every Albertan, and at the heart of a strong and healthy Alberta.

“The measure of a budget should be not some bogus measure of fiscal health, but rather how it will contribute to human health now and in the future,” Azocar pointed out.

“This is our new reality. Friends of Medicare are calling on this government to make true on their ‘public health care guarantee’ and to move away from the understaffing, underfunding and under-resourcing of an essential public service. Albertans want to see a more responsive public health care system, and that can only be achieved by improving and expanding our current system, not by seeking private, for-profit solutions,” Friends of Medicare said.

### **Alberta Teachers’ Association**

The Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA) was also quick to express its opposition to the budget. ATA president Jason Schilling says that teachers will not be able to fill the gaps created by today’s provincial budget. “This budget is, yet again, asking teachers to do more with less. The student population is expected to grow by 15,000 students, and school boards will not receive any more money to support them.”

“The government is playing a shell game in order to trick us into thinking enrollment growth is being funded, but at the end of the day, school boards have less funding per student, which means larger classes, fewer supports for students and programming cuts.”

K-12 education funding is actually being cut by two per cent in the current year, Schilling said. He added that cuts imposed by this budget will be felt by students in the classroom and, as a result, some will fall through the cracks.

“Class composition will continue to be a big problem and one-on-one attention suffers as a result,” Schilling said.

*(Photos: RU, AUPE, AFL, Friends of Medicare)*

**Send your articles, photographs, reports, views and comments to  
[editormlpc@cpcml.ca](mailto:editormlpc@cpcml.ca)**

**SUBSCRIBE TO RENEWAL UPDATE**

**E-mail [postmaster@cpcml.ca](mailto:postmaster@cpcml.ca) with “subscribe” in subject line. Please include your name, riding and occupation. See homepage for full subscription form.**