

## **News Release**

**The Canadian Association of Labour Lawyers/ Association Canadienne des Avocats du Mouvement Syndical (CALL/ACAMS) speaks out against the replacement of the hearing officers at the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board.**

In an open letter forwarded to Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall and the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, Rob Norris CALL/ACAMS spoke out against the summary replacement of the neutral hearing officers at the Labour Relations Board as an affront to the Board, the public and the stakeholders appearing before it.

A copy of this communiqué is attached.

For further information contact Drew Plaxton: telephone: 306-653-1500 or Heather Jensen: 306-522-3030.

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March 27, 2008

The Honourable Brad Wall  
Premier of Saskatchewan  
226 Legislative Building  
2405 Legislative Drive  
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Honourable Rob Norris  
Minister's Office  
208 Legislative Building  
2405 Legislative Drive  
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Premier and Minister:

Re: Termination of the Chair and Vice Chair Persons of  
the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board

In a free and democratic society, the public must be secure in the knowledge its affairs are governed by an independent and impartial judiciary. This applies equally to the specialized administrative tribunals that regulate a diverse range of activities.

We are greatly concerned by your government's summary termination of the appointments of Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board Chairperson Seibel and Vice Chairpersons Zborosky and Zuck on the 6th of March 2008, all before the end of their scheduled terms and without cause. A new Chairperson has been appointed without an open competition being held.

Across Canada, independent tribunals administer labour legislation and regulate the affairs of employers, organized labour and members of trade unions. These tribunals make decisions of fundamental importance to people's jobs, businesses and lives. The composition of the Labour Relations Board ensures the interests of employees and employers are equally represented. Further, the legislation provides for an impartial Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons.

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Public confidence in the Labour Relations Board is eroded when its decision-makers are removed before the scheduled end of their terms for what appear to be political reasons. For tribunals to be able to interpret laws impartially and without fear of reprisals, security of tenure must be respected.

The recent actions of the Government have not only called into question the independence and integrity of the Labour Relations Board, but have raised the spectre of political interference in the workings of the tribunal essential to maintaining legal rights in the workplace.

The Canadian Association of Labour Lawyers, an organization of more than three hundred lawyers who represent the labour movement across Canada, decries this action as an affront not only to the Labour Relations Board, but also to the public and all stakeholders who rely upon the Board to make decisions that fundamentally impact upon their livelihood and rights.

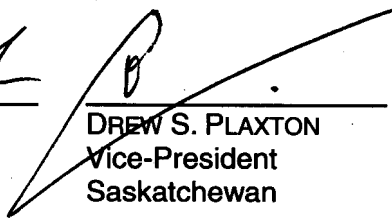
Yours truly

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF LABOUR LAWYERS ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES AVOCATS DU MOUVEMENT SYNDICAL

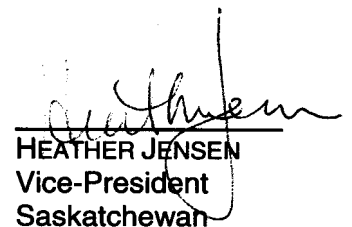
per:



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President



DREW S. PLAXTON  
Vice-President  
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HEATHER JENSEN  
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