

October, 2010

SFL 2010 Convention Delegates

Sisters and Brothers,

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour Convention being held October 27 – 30, 2010 in Regina marks the 55<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting and policy convention for our rank and file members. That is a truly significant accomplishment and a testament to our collective commitment of being the democratic voice of working people in our province.

Each year we gather at our Annual Convention to share experiences, to discuss and debate important issues, to pass resolutions and to chart a progressive course for the labour movement for the upcoming year.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that I am seeking re-election to the position of President at this year's convention. I am truly honoured to have been able to serve as your President of this great Federation for the past 8 years.

Over the past 4 terms, I have done my level best to represent all unions affiliated to the SFL with fairness, dignity, professionalism and commitment. Together, we have continued our steadfast dedication to union education and to a society based on the principles of fairness, equality and justice.

Working with the Executive Council, affiliate leadership and the federation staff, we have been able to help advance issues important to labour. It is a daunting task when you consider that we are constantly competing against many very powerful, influential, and well-financed adversaries.

The relentless attack by corporations and right wing lobby groups (and the political parties they control) against all of those things a compassionate and caring society believes in continues unabated. At the same time, corporate scandals, obscene levels of executive compensation and the gap between rich and poor all continue to persist.

It is in front of this backdrop, that we continue to work hard at building relationships and coalitions with other more compassionate and progressive groups in our community. We need to continue reaching out into our community. We need to remain focused on building a progressive and inclusive labour movement with education as a key component. We must do this with equal participation of the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal workers, women, new Canadians, workers of colour, youth, differently abled workers and within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

Another area of priority needs to be active engagement in the political electoral process. We simply can not stand on the sidelines, and let our political leaders be picked and placed into power by organizations and groups that constantly attack all of those things important to us.

We must get active in the political debate and engage our members in a dialogue about which political philosophy and which candidates running for election most closely align with our collective objective of a fair and equitable society. And then we must support those candidates.

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Quite simply put, we need more trade unionists in elected office at all levels of government. Municipal, Provincial, and Federal.

In our province, the past two years have been extremely challenging for workers and their democratic organizations. In spite of almost unprecedented prosperity for Saskatchewan, many workers and their families continue to struggle to make ends meet. And never before in Saskatchewan, has a provincial government been so aggressive in their continuing attack and outright assault on the fundamental constitutional rights of its citizens.

The Saskatchewan government has such contempt for unions and everything that we stand for that they are prepared to violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as they attempt to decimate workers' democratic organizations.

But, in March of this past year, we scored a tremendous victory when the United Nations International Labour Organization (ILO) ruled that the current Saskatchewan government's signature legislation (Bills 5 and 6) violate our International Human Rights. They have been asked, by the ILO, to consult with us and to repair the damage done.

We will not stand idly by while our own government attempts to destroy us. We will fight in the streets, we will fight on the shop floor, we will fight at the bargaining table and we will fight in the courts.

As in past years, I choose to be part of a leadership that stands first and foremost on the side of the worker. In spite of the obstacles in front of us, we will continue to move forward in our defense of the right to join a union, the right to free collective bargaining, the right to strike and the right to a decent standard of living for all.

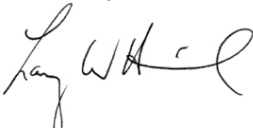
I know that our future holds much promise, but I also know our struggle will not be an easy one.

Now more than ever – workers need unions! And now more than ever – unions need a strong and united Federation! I will work tirelessly to defend working people and I am asking for your support to continue the struggle as your Federation's President.

I give you this commitment, **I will stand up FOR you, and I will stand up WITH you.**

I look forward to meeting with you and your caucus at the upcoming convention, and invite you to contact or approach me at any time in this regard.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry W. Hubich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "H".

Larry W. Hubich  
SFL President