



News Release

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SFL Discouraged by Throne Speech

“We are discouraged by the fact that today’s Throne Speech does not mention labour’s participation in Enterprise Saskatchewan and makes no mention of the Labour Market Commission. We are looking for evidence that the government was serious about ‘reaching out to labour’ and we are seeing none,” said SFL President Larry Hubich today.

One of the only references to labour in today’s Speech from the Throne was that there will be amendments to labour legislation designed to make Saskatchewan ‘more competitive with other jurisdictions’. “Saskatchewan Labour Legislation is already competitive with many provinces and with the Canada Labour Code. We should be strengthening our labour legislation not engaging in a race to the bottom,” said Hubich.

“The government has an obligation and a responsibility to consult with workers when they are going to amend legislation that directly affects hundreds of thousands of workers. When this government was in Opposition, they called loudly and clearly for consultations when Bills were being introduced to amend the Trade Union Act. Brad Wall’s government needs to take their own advice on the importance of meaningful stakeholder consultation“, added Hubich.

We have significant issues of recruitment and retention in this province and we cannot attract and keep workers if we do not respect their rights. It is irresponsible for a government to bring in legislation that strips away workers’ charter rights to collectively bargain; it creates an unstable labour relations climate and sends a message to working people that Saskatchewan is not a welcoming, respectful place to work and raise a family.

The SFL represents nearly 95,000 unionized workers from 37 affiliated unions in Saskatchewan.

For more information, contact Larry Hubich at 537-7330 (cell)