



May 17, 2007

TO: Members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Community

FROM: Larry Hubich, President of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour

**Re: International Day Against Homophobia in Saskatchewan**

I wish I was able to attend in person this important gathering to celebrate the proclamation for today, May 17<sup>th</sup>, as International Day Against Homophobia in Saskatchewan.

As you may or may not know May 17<sup>th</sup> is the day that the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses so the declaration of this particular day holds great significance.

This day is our opportunity to further raise awareness and to dispel myths and misconceptions associated with sexual orientation and gender identity.

Although there is widespread general agreement opposing discrimination, and more specifically homophobia and anti-GLBT violence, homophobia remains present in society. Saskatchewan needs to be a society that is open to everyone, including the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender communities.

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour lobbied the government to recognize and proclaim May 17<sup>th</sup> and we thank the MLAs and others here today for their support on this important issue.

The labour movement hopes that some day homophobia will no longer exist in our society, our communities, our families, our workplaces or our unions, and we will continue this struggle for a safer and more inclusive society until that becomes a reality.

I wish you strength and courage as you continue to make important advances towards equality.

Have a fantastic evening.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Hubich', is written in a cursive style.

Larry Hubich  
President