



News Release

for immediate release

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New Hours of Service Regulations will break the bus industry

Amended hours of service regulations in the commercial vehicle drivers industry are scheduled to take effect in January 2007, with serious consequences for workers, small businesses and the public," says Larry Hubich, President of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour.

"Our members who are commercial bus drivers are concerned that their unique work/rest arrangements have not been adequately considered. There are glaring inconsistencies in the regulations as they apply to truck drivers versus bus drivers," adds Hubich.

The old regulations state that drivers must have eight hours of rest in a 24-hour period, making it possible to run tours outside a 16-hour period. The new regulations state that this is no longer possible, regardless of how much time the driver has off within the 16-hour period.

Grant Claypool, Vice-Chairperson of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1374 says, "The old rules allow us to do round-trip tours to events all over the province and to places such as Winnipeg with more than adequate rest time. Under the new rules, the 16-hour requirement means that these trips will no longer be viable because drivers, and passengers, will be stuck longer at turnaround or layover points. The bus industry is a split-shift operation and the powers that be don't seem to understand that."

"The public will also see their services seriously compromised. For example, we already heard a complaint from one senior citizen who buses into Regina for dialysis treatment and who will no longer have enough time in Regina to attend her doctor's appointment because the bus has to turn around after only a couple of hours. These new rules will have a devastating effect on seniors in the province who rely on the bus industry for all of their transportation needs," adds Claypool.

Sports teams such as the Regina Cougars and Rams who regularly charter buses, will see their costs go up by as much as \$300 per trip, since drivers will not be allowed to shuttle the group to and from games and meals within the

visiting city, without breaking the regulations. Private tour and charter companies will struggle to survive under these conditions.

Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC) will have to change nine of its regularly scheduled runs, and in some cases, passengers will no longer be able to make proper connections forcing them to stay overnight in towns away from home.

The regulations also affect the trucking industry, but the bus industry in Saskatchewan is asking to be exempted from the legislation, as has been done in both Alberta and the United States.

“We are calling on Minister of Highways and Transportation Eldon Lautermilch, to take the necessary steps to exempt bus drivers from the regulations so that we can continue to provide valuable services to the people of Saskatchewan,” says Claypool.

For more information, contact Grant Claypool at 537-5186 (cel) or Larry Hubich at 924-8573 or 537-7330 (cel.)