



## News Release

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for immediate release

### **Hubich challenges Ching to a public debate on Northern Overtime Exemption**

A recent report from the Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation quotes Don Ching, president of Areva, as saying that his company “has put a lot of time and effort into collective bargaining agreements with the union covering the mining workers” and that a change in the legislation would be a “huge disruption” for his company.

SFL President Larry Hubich says, “I challenge Mr. Ching’s assertion about the impact the removal of the Northern Overtime Exemption would have on industries in this province. The truth is that Sections 7 and 9 of the *Labour Standards Act* allow for unions and companies to negotiate hours of work that deviate from the standard hours of work laid out in the *Act*. The removal of this discriminatory exemption would have zero affect on collective agreements”.

Workers employed in healthcare, public safety, crime prevention, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and the service sector currently work in modified workweek arrangements without any onerous impact on their employers. These negotiated arrangements are also to the satisfaction of the workers.

“I would think that as the former Deputy Minister of Labour, and a former labour lawyer, Ching would also be well aware that there are averaging provisions in the *Act*, accessed by many employers in our province, so that shifts and extended days off can be scheduled without the requirement to pay overtime. I would be happy to participate in a public debate with Mr. Ching on this issue so that we can clear this matter up,” adds Hubich.

The SFL represents over 93,500 unionized workers from 35 affiliated unions in Saskatchewan.

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