



News Release

For immediate release

February 4, 2009

SFL calls on government to respond to the ILO

The SFL is calling on the provincial government to submit its response to the International Labour Organization (ILO) regarding the legality of the recently passed Bills 5 and 6.

Bills 5 and 6, the new essential services law and the changes to the Trade Union Act, have been challenged by the National Union of Public and General Employees Union on behalf of the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union (SGEU), with a support complaint filed by the SFL in September 2008. 21 provincial and national unions joined the SFL in its complaint.

The ILO Committee on Freedom of Association is currently waiting for the government's overdue response.

"We are calling on the government to submit its response to the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association so it can issue a decision on whether or not Bills 5 and 6 comply with international labour standards," said SFL President Larry Hubich.

"SGEU said yesterday that delays in dealing with this agency of the United Nations are unacceptable, and the SFL echoes that view. Mr. Wall appears to have the time and energy to go to Chicago and Houston to promote international trade. Yet he is not fulfilling his international obligations when it comes to human rights at home," said Hubich.

The SFL's complaint argues that the changes to labour legislation brought about by the Saskatchewan Party government undermine workers' international rights to organize and to collectively bargain.

The SFL represents approximately 95,000 workers in 37 affiliated unions.

For more information, contact Larry Hubich at (306) 537-7330.