



News Release

For immediate release

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ITUC condemns Wall government

Yesterday, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) released its *Annual Survey of violations of trade union rights*. Canada has been cited due to the regressive legislation of the Saskatchewan Party government.

The Wall government is cited specifically for its essential services legislation and its amendments to the *Trade Union Act* (Bills 5 and 6). ITUC concludes that the bills have the effect of “reducing the bargaining rights of a union or weakening the right of workers to organize”.

The survey also notes that the *B.C. Health Services* Supreme Court decision in 2007 “established unionization and collective bargaining as a protected freedom under the country’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms”, and that “provincial and national authorities have been slow to amend conflicting legislation that does not conform to the Court’s ruling”.

“Saskatchewan is not simply guilty of being ‘slow to amend conflicting legislation’, the Sask. Party government is guilty of developing and passing legislation that completely flies in the face of what the Supreme Court ruled regarding union rights,” said Saskatchewan Federation of Labour President Larry Hubich.

“It is a dubious distinction indeed to be cited in the same publication as the likes of countries such as Colombia, Burma, Belarus, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Iran, Pakistan and the Philippines, where trade union leaders are routinely murdered or imprisoned for defending workers’ rights,” added Hubich.

To view the full report, visit the ITUC annual survey at <http://survey09.ituc-csi.org/>

The ITUC represents 168 million workers in 155 countries and territories and has 311 national affiliates. The ITUC works closely with the International Labour Organization and several other United Nations Specialized Agencies.

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

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