



News Release

SFL Files Support Complaint with the ILO

For immediate release

September 3rd, 2008

As Saskatchewan citizens were just beginning to enjoy their Labour Day long weekend, the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) and 21 provincial and national unions filed supporting documents with the United Nations tripartite agency, the International Labour Organization (ILO). They argue that the Sask. Party government's Bills 5 & 6 violate international laws to which Canada is signatory.

"We find it both fitting and appropriate that we should file these charges against the Brad Wall government on the weekend set aside to recognize and honour the contributions and sacrifice of working women and men," said SFL President Larry Hubich.

"We firmly believe that the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association will find that the actions of the Saskatchewan government run afoul of Canada's international obligations and commitments. Part of those commitments is to ensure that workers are free to join unions of their own choosing and to engage in free collective bargaining without undue influence from either employers or government," Hubich added. "At a time when human rights are increasingly topical on the global agenda, the Sask. Party government's attack on workers' rights is embarrassing."

The SFL (et al) "Statement of Evidence" was submitted in support of the complaint filed earlier in the year by the National Union of Provincial Government Employees (NUPGE) on behalf of the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union (SGEU).

"SGEU endorses the SFL's initiative and welcomes the support of so many other unions," said Bob Bymo, president of SGEU.

"The SFL and its affiliates, and independent unions in this province will continue to fight in the courts, in the international arena, and as always, on the picket line and the shop floor to protect our right to be union," added Hubich.

To view the complaint, visit http://www.sfl.sk.ca/labour_legislation.php

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

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