

News Release

For Immediate Release

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SFL issues Labour Day message

More than 130 years ago, Labour Day was created to honour the groundbreaking Ontario demonstrations of 1872. Marchers from 27 unions took to the streets and demanded that their brothers from the Toronto typographical union, who had struck for a nine-hour workday, be released from prison. Thousands of citizens flocked to the protests in support of the right to legally belong to a union. And the workers won.

“Shorter working time, fair compensation, union representation, paid holidays, an end to child labour, and many more benefits that workers enjoy today, have never been easily won. Those in our society who hold the most wealth and power have historically been reluctant to cede to workers’ demands. Labour Day is a time to say ‘thank-you’ to our ancestors for their determination and courage, “ says SFL President Larry Hubich.

As the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour marks its 50th year as a workers organization - workers in our society still require much of the same determination and courage. In many ways – now more than ever.

“In Saskatchewan today, we have far too many workers who are struggling to survive on poverty wages. We have skilled employees tossed out on the street, because the multinational corporation who employed them for the last twenty years closed up shop when profits weren’t high enough. Certain ruthless big-box retailers, by exploiting their workforce, continue to squeeze out smaller family owned enterprises. And we have an employer who refuses to enter into negotiations to settle a long, painful strike. As a society, we’ve got to do better than that,” says Hubich.

But, the shining light at the end of that tunnel remains a strong and vibrant labour movement. Unions in this province continue to play a vital role every day – helping workers help themselves.

The labour movement’s tradition of collective action and struggle continues. “The SFL and its 35 affiliated unions in over 700 locals across this province are proud to stand up for decent working conditions, for fairness, for equality and for economic justice for workers everywhere,” adds Hubich.

The SFL wishes workers, their families, and all Saskatchewan citizens a safe and enjoyable Labour Day weekend. Join us as we celebrate the contributions of workers and their unions.

For more information, contact Larry Hubich at 306-537-7330 (cel) or 306-924-8573 (Regina).

