



News Release

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Provincial Budget Re-invests in Social Policy

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, the organization representing the largest number of taxpayers in the province is pleased that Calvert's 2007 budget is devoting substantial resources to building up the social infrastructure of the province.

"Corporate profits have never been higher, taxes are set at a rate competitive with other jurisdictions across the country – now is the time to re-invest in people and services we all value," said SFL President Larry Hubich today.

"We are pleased to see that this government is directing some resources towards a health benefit plan for seniors and low-income workers. The government is finally paying attention to some of the recommendations of the Commission on Improving Work Opportunities," said Hubich.

"Tax exemptions for Saskatchewan post-secondary graduates who stay in the province are also an investment in our future labour force. Although we would have preferred to see direct reductions in tuition fees, this initiative does attempt to address the important issue of retention of our young people," said Hubich.

Labour also paid close attention today to plans for improving the recruitment and retention of workers to Saskatchewan. "Labour shortages, in particular in healthcare, have reached crisis points. Workers are being routinely forced to work overtime and to work short-staffed, and as a result they are facing high levels of stress and burnout. The government's plan to increase healthcare training seats and to devote new resources to wages and benefits of healthcare workers is a beginning. Much more work remains to be done in the area of retention and recruitment," added Hubich.

The SFL represents over 93,500 unionized workers from 36 affiliated unions in Saskatchewan.

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