

## News Release

October 5, 2006

For Immediate Release

### **SFL calls Federal cuts to Literacy Funding “short-sighted”**

Following yesterday’s meeting of the Executive of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL), President Larry Hubich said “The cuts to literacy funding by the Harper government are short-sighted and will harm the Saskatchewan economy.”

Noting that business and labour organizations in Saskatchewan have supported literacy and workplace essential skills programming for over a decade, Hubich said the Saskatchewan economy needs workers with increased skills even more now than in the past.

“The \$820,000 in cuts announced recently need to be recinded immediately and the Harper government must assure business and labour that industry training needs will be heeded from now on” Hubich said. “Saskatchewan does not need Harper’s slash and burn economics. We need literacy and workplace essential skills support for our current and future workers, and we need that support now.”

Hubich called Premier Lorne Calvert’s call for reinstating the federal literacy funding as “...positive and welcome, but not going far enough. Until the federal government comes to its senses on this issue, the Province must step in and use some of its oil money to fully fund the Saskatchewan Literacy Network, the Saskatchewan Literacy Commission, and industry’s literacy and workplace essential skills programming.”