



For immediate release

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SFL Annual Convention Kicks Off in Saskatoon

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour Annual Convention kicked off today in Saskatoon. More than 575 delegates were in attendance at TCU Place.

SFL President Larry Hubich addressed delegates this morning. He congratulated the unions for their successful campaign against TILMA and he appealed to delegates to continue to do the important work of protecting the public sector from corporate profiteers. He called on delegates to organize against the exploitation of temporary foreign workers and to continue to fight for workplace fairness for every worker in the province.

Hubich also implored delegates to get active in the current election campaign, stating that “workers should exercise their democratic right to choose a political party that stands up for workers’ issues”.

Ken Georgetti, President of the Canadian Labour Congress, echoed Hubich’s message about the importance of political action, particularly in light of massive layoffs in the manufacturing sector. He told delegates “to elect political leaders who support working people, not big business”.

Michael McBane from the Canadian Health Coalition presented research about the need for a national pharmacare program. “Drug costs are currently out of control and we can’t afford not to have pharmacare. Private plans are inequitable, inefficient, and more expensive than public plans,” he told delegates. Following the speech, union members debated a resolution on pharmacare, describing many instances where citizens have limited or no access to medicines.

Delegates debated several resolutions on workplace health and safety, including the need to ban carcinogens and asbestos from workplaces and homes.

Tomorrow Linda McQuaig, investigative journalist, addresses the delegation at 10:45 a.m. Jean-Claude Parrot, former CLC Vice-President and CUPW leader speaks at 2:00 p.m.

The SFL represents 93,775 workers from 36 affiliated unions across the province.

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