



For immediate release

October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009

### **Labour Federation delegates join anti-Bush demo**

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) Annual Convention began this morning in Saskatoon at TCU Place, with approximately 550 trade unionists from across the province in attendance.

SFL President Larry Hubich welcomed delegates, calling on them to continue their efforts to build a strong and united trade union movement. "In the face of the Brad Wall government's privatization agenda and its anti-union legislation, now is the time to work together in co-operation and solidarity," said Hubich.

At noon hour, TCU Place hosted former U.S. President George Bush and the delegation joined the anti-Bush demonstrators for a spirited rally.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for trade unionists to stand together with the Saskatoon community and speak out about Bush's war crimes and his administration's devastation of the global economy. Today, collectively, we widened and strengthened the network of groups in our province who are demanding accountability from anti-democratic governments and corrupt corporate CEOs," said Hubich.

SFL Executive Vice-President and chair of the SFL Trade Committee, Gary Schoenfeldt, brought greetings to the hundreds of citizens gathered, arguing that the exorbitant security costs in bringing George Bush to Saskatoon should not be shouldered by the taxpayers, but by the businesses who brought him here to promote a greed economy.

Marie Clarke Walker, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), addressed delegates this afternoon. She condemned white-collar, corporate criminals, saying "Our economy is rewarding greed and ignoring need. Richly-paid corporate CEOs are getting richer while workers are getting hammered and being forced to take pay cuts, benefit cuts, and fewer hours of work. To make matters worse, the system of employment insurance for our increasingly high number of unemployed in Canada remains far from adequate."

Clarke Walker invited delegates to get involved in the CLC pensions campaign and to attend the CLC Pensions Forum in Saskatoon on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. "Two-thirds of

Canadian workers will retire without a decent pension. The Canada Pension Plan needs to be fixed and we need to elect a government that will do it. Greedy and incompetent CEOs are stealing from the economy and Brad Wall and Stephen Harper are aiding and abetting them by driving the get-away cars,” said Clarke Walker.

This afternoon the Convention heard from members of United Food and Commercial Workers local 1400, who have been locked out by XL Beef in Moose Jaw. The strikers told delegates they are experiencing layoffs, concessions at the negotiating table and employer interference.

“This is the sort of employer behaviour that is all too common since the government changed the Trade Union Act – employers are emboldened to go around the certified bargaining agent, and to attempt to force harsh concessions. The labour movement stands in solidarity with these 200 workers in their struggle for a fair deal,” said President Hubich.

On Thursday at 10:30 a.m., Murray Dobbin, writer and political commentator, will give a presentation on corporations and democracy.

Senior Economist from the Canadian Centre of Policy Alternatives Armine Yalnizyan will address delegates at 1:25 p.m. tomorrow.

The SFL represents approximately 95,000 workers from 37 affiliated unions across the province.

For more information, contact Cara Banks at (306)533-3423 or  
Larry Hubich (306)537-7330