



## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### **SFL Commends Federal Government on Wage Protection Act**

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour joins with the Canadian Labour Congress in applauding the adoption with amendments, by the House of Commons of Bill C-55, the Wage Earner Protection Program Act.

"The unanimous vote in favour of Bill C-55 in the House of Commons is a great step in the right direction for Canadian workers," says Ken Georgetti, president of the Canadian Labour Congress. "It is urgent that the Senate also pass this bill to provide workers with desperately-needed protection of their wages and benefits, and of their collective agreements."

The Wage Earner Protection Program Act will allow the creation of a Wage Earner Protection Fund to guarantee up to \$3,000 to workers who suffer lost wages when employers declare bankruptcy; it will affirm the sanctity of collective agreements against bankruptcy proceedings; and it will secure the integrity of unpaid pension contributions at the time of the bankruptcy.

"The Wage Earner Protection Program Act, as adopted by the House of Commons, can restore fairness to workers in bankruptcy proceedings," explains Hassan Yussuff, secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress. "It brings clear, predictable and concrete protection to those who often lose the most when employers become insolvent."

SFL President Larry Hubich calls on all provincial governments, including Saskatchewan, to enact similar legislation and make amendments to existing legislation, where appropriate, at the provincial level. "Workers in every jurisdiction in Canada need comprehensive protection in the event that their employers go bankrupt".

The SFL represents 93,500 unionized workers from over 35 affiliated unions in Saskatchewan.

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