



News Release

For immediate release

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Saskatchewan Union of Nurses member, Janice Cibart has been appointed as Canadian worker representative to the International Labour Organization's Committee on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work. The appointment was made through the Canadian Labour Congress and the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the tripartite United Nations agency that brings together governments, employers and workers to promote decent work throughout the world

The ILO recognizes that the pandemic of HIV/AIDS has become one the most critical workplace issues in our time.

"It's an honour to represent Canada at the ILO. Discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS threatens fundamental rights at work, undermining opportunities for people to obtain decent employment. This pandemic is keeping far too many in poverty, both worldwide and in our province," says Cibart.

In 2001, the ILO adopted a *Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work*. The pioneering Code is designed to help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS while managing and mitigating its workplace impact. Among the Code's key principles are non-discrimination, gender equality, a healthy working environment, no HIV testing for purposes of employment, confidentiality and the continuation of the employment relationship. Increasingly, the code is serving as a reference point for employers and trade unions negotiating agreements on handling HIV/AIDS in the world of work.

Jan has worked in the field of education and treatment of HIV/AIDS since 1993. She started in Washington, DC working for the Children's Medical Centre. When she returned to Saskatchewan she worked for the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region as a Homecare Registered Nurse with particular focus on HIV/AIDS education. She went on to work in Africa with women and HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe, assisting in the development of education. Upon her return she continued work as a Homecare Nurse with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region working with the vulnerable populations most at risk for HIV/AIDS, until a recent switch into Palliative Homecare.

“SUN is extremely proud to have a member recognized at the international level,” said Rosalee Longmoore, SUN President. “Jan’s compassion and past experiences in travelling the world to educate others on the HIV/AIDS virus is why she was the perfect candidate for this role. Her appointment is a testament to the type of registered nurses we have in Saskatchewan.”

Jan has also been the Labour representative on the Saskatchewan Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS since 2002.

“The SFL appointed Jan as Labour representative on the Saskatchewan Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS because the labour movement recognizes this is an important issue in our community. Since the Saskatchewan Party government was elected in 2007, they have not seen fit to call a meeting of this Committee. This lack of action sends a clear message to the most vulnerable in our population, and it is very disturbing that this does not appear to be a priority for our current government,” said SFL President Larry Hubich.

In Saskatchewan the rate of HIV/AIDS infection continues to grow with the highest increase in transmission affecting young Aboriginal women.

For more information, contact Janice Cibart at (306) 533-1258 or Larry Hubich (306) 537-7330 or Rosalee Longmoore at (306) 525-1666.

The SFL represents over 95,000 unionized workers from 37 affiliated unions in Saskatchewan.

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