



## News Release

**For immediate release**

**January 27, 2005**

### **Hours of Work law to be discussed at U of S**

A group of University of Saskatchewan students has organized an Hours of Work Forum to discuss the provincial government's proposed regulations affecting part-time workers.

The forum will be held at Bowers in the Memorial Union Building on the University of Saskatchewan campus and will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, January 31, 2005.

Speakers will include student and community representatives as well as Larry Kowalchuk (General Counsel for the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union and sessional lecturer at the College of Commerce) and Larry Hubich (President of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour).

There will be brief opening statements followed by a question and answer period.

The Calvert government announced last October that the province would proceed with implementing the "Most Available Hours" amendment which is aimed at turning part-time hours of work into full-time jobs. Many of the almost 100,000 part-time workers in Saskatchewan are students employed in the service or retail sectors.

At least one in five part-time employees are seeking full-time jobs, and perhaps a similar number are looking for more hours of work than they now have, but because of classes or family obligations they aren't able to work a full 40 hours every week.

The Most Available Hours law will require employers to offer "new or additional" hours of work to their part-time employees who have the longest service with the company and who are qualified to do the work. Part-time workers would have the option of taking or declining the additional hours. Short-term call-ins would not be affected by the new law, but scheduling of long-term work would be covered.

The new law would be of particular benefit to employees who hold two or more part-time jobs. They would be able to add hours of work at one location and free up hours elsewhere, cutting down on travel time and expenses

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