

REPORT OF THE SFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Over the past year, the SFL Executive Council has met five times.

December 12-13, 2017 in Regina

February 28, 2018 in Regina

June 5, 2018 in Regina

September 25, 2018 in Regina

October 23, 2018 in Regina (pre-convention)

NEW AFFILIATES – 2017-2018

February 28, 2018

Administrative & Supervisory Personnel Association (ASPA)

- 1,248 members at the University of Saskatchewan - academics

March 22, 2018

Canadian Union of Public Employees – Local 5430

- 12,685 members from merger of CUPE locals 3967, 4777, 4980, 5111 and 5999

SFL STRIKE/LOCK-OUT APPEALS – 2017/2018

UNITE HERE Local 41 – 16 members at the Holiday Inn Express in Regina

Donations made through SFL office after October 1/17 – strike ended October 3/17

CUPE SK	Oct/17	\$500
RWDSU	Oct/17	\$1,600
COPE 397	Oct/17	\$1,100
IATSE 295	Oct/17	\$200
UFCW 1400	Oct/17	\$250
USFA	Oct/17	\$500
SEIU West	Oct/17	\$500
RWDSU 955	Oct/17	\$1,600
IBEW 2067	Oct/17	\$1,000
CUPE 4828	Oct/17	\$200

POLICY ISSUES, ADVOCACY, AND POLITICAL ACTION

Much of the advocacy and political action work has been around the Sask. Party government's harsh austerity agenda, protecting Saskatchewan's Crown corporations, the government's 3.5% wage rollback, and planning for the next provincial election.

The SFL has been hosting regular meetings of affiliated and non-affiliated unions who bargain in the public sector. These meetings ensure sharing of information, identification of trends, and assist in coordinating responses to rollbacks, wage mandates, and other threats.

The following is a list of statements and news releases – with a short excerpt – published by the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour over the past year:

October 25, 2017

Throne Speech a Hollow Epitaph for Brad Wall's Career

As hundreds of voters rallied outside the Legislature opposing the Sask. Party government's heartless cuts, layoffs, privatization, and growing list of scandals, Premier Wall was inside the legislature putting the final chisels into the epitaph for his political career. A career mired in waste, shady backroom deals, sell-offs, debt, deficit, and deceit.

"The labour movement organized and forced the Sask. Party government to abandon its bone-chilling Bill 40. While we are happy the premier has said Bill 40 will be repealed, and as we approach Hallowe'en I can't help but think that Saskatchewan people have been promised treats by this government before, only to be tricked," said Larry Hubich, president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL), "I won't believe the Sask. Party government until the stake has been officially driven through Bill 40's heart – never to rise again to prey on Saskatchewan's Crown corporations," he added.

While no intentions were revealed in the Throne Speech, the SFL is warning the Sask. Party government to steer clear of any attempts to picket pocket Saskatchewan workers by legislating wage rollbacks.

October 26, 2017

What's happening to Sears pensioners and workers should be criminal

Since Sears Canada first filed for insolvency in June of this year (2017), it has paid out \$6.5 million in bonuses to rich executives in its head office. This, while 16,000 Sears workers have recently lost or will soon lose their job — without receiving a nickel of severance.

That should be criminal.

Frontline retail workers did not cause the collapse of Sears – millionaire executives did. So why are those same fat cats receiving millions more in bonuses?...

November 7, 2017

SFL calls for adoption of Bill 605 to give survivors of domestic violence paid leave

Today, the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) is calling for the adoption of a private member's bill that would see necessary supports put into place for survivors of domestic violence, including paid leave.

"We know from national and provincial studies that domestic violence follows survivors to the workplace. One of the many ways domestic violence impacts work is survivors may delay or abandon plans to flee their abuser if it could result in losing their job," said Lori Johb, Secretary-Treasurer of the SFL and Chair of the SFL's Women's Committee, "it breaks my heart that survivors in Saskatchewan must choose between protecting themselves and their children, and keeping their livelihood. We are calling for the adoption of Bill 605 so that survivors can have access to paid leave from work," she added...

November 21, 2017

Sask. Party government retracts only 49% of Bill 40, doesn't count as a repeal

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) is calling on the Sask. Party government to fully repeal its unpopular and unnecessary Bill 40, including provisions that let the provincial government 'wind-up' or dissolve any Crown corporation and liquidate its assets – all without asking Saskatchewan people.

"By the premier's own admission, Bill 40 is grossly unpopular with Saskatchewan voters. Brad Wall promised he would repeal the unnecessary bill, but with the half-measure we saw introduced today it appears as though he has broken yet another promise to protect our Crown corporations," said Larry Hubich, president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL), "I am calling on the Sask. Party government to actually keep a promise made to Saskatchewan voters by fully repealing Bill 40," he added...

December 5, 2017

SFL recognizes the National Day of Remembrance and Action to End Violence Against Women

Tomorrow – December 6th – is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) recognizes this important day, and remembers the École Polytechnique shooting when 14 young women lost their lives...

January 5, 2018

Attacking minimum wage earners is dishonest, counter to Canadian values

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) commends recent increases to the minimum wage in Ontario, and supports all plans across the country that would see the lowest-paid Canadians get a raise. However, some businesses are using the minimum wage increase as a cover for cutting benefits and reducing hours – thereby further amassing wealth off the backs of hard-working people.

In particular, some Tim Hortons franchise owners – including the heirs to the Tim Hortons fortune – have been threatening the livelihoods of their employees.

“I think it is completely unacceptable and dishonest for people who are heirs to a \$1.4 billion US fortune to claim that paying workers \$14 an hour requires cutbacks to hours and benefits,” said Larry Hubich, SFL president, “every time the minimum wage increases – usually by only cents at a time – some business groups cry wolf and claim the sky is falling. However, we know that increasing the minimum wage puts more money in the pockets of people who spend it in our communities generating economic activity. Unlike the Tim Hortons heirs, who issued their threats from a winter home in Florida,” he added...

February 14, 2018

On Racism and Reconciliation

We have taken a little time to consider the impacts of the Gerald Stanley trial, events leading up to the trial, the verdict, and events that have happened since.

First, a young man is dead. We send our sincere condolences to Colten Boushie’s family, his friends, and his community. This is a tragedy, and we should never forget that.

Secondly, Saskatchewan has a racism problem. This problem extends to all of Canada. Racism and colonialism have plagued this province and country for generations. It permeates our systems, our institutions, and our interactions...

March 8, 2018

SFL marks International Women’s Day by re-affirming its commitment to make life better for all women

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) continues its efforts to fight for equality in celebration of March 8th – International Women’s Day.

International Women’s Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change, and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by women who have played extraordinary roles in their countries, communities, and within the labour movement.

“Saskatchewan’s labour movement has long fought for improving the lives of all women, working in solidarity with feminist movements, and doing everything we can to promote equality,” said Lori Johb, Secretary-Treasurer of the SFL, “in the last year the SFL has been especially active advocating for paid leave from work for survivors of domestic violence and working with our community partners to plan an empowering Women’s March that took place earlier this year,” she added...

March 21, 2018

Recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The United Nations’ (UN) International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed worldwide on March 21st each year. The day aims to remind people of racial

discrimination's negative consequences. It also encourages people to remember their obligation to combat racial discrimination.

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) recognizes the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by calling on governments and organizations across Canada to fully implement all the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and to make life better for racialized Canadians, refugees, migrant workers, and newcomers...

April 9, 2018

Sask. Party Government Should Invest in Saskatchewan Workers

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) is calling on Scott Moe and his Sask. Party government to use tomorrow's budget as an opportunity to invest in Saskatchewan workers. "An economy is only as strong as the workers that power it," said Larry Hubich, SFL president, "in addition to investing in workers, the Sask. Party government must properly fund the public services that we all rely on," he added...

April 9, 2018

Finding Strength in Community

Yesterday's moving vigil in Humboldt – held to honour the victims of the Humboldt Bronco's bus accident – was a powerful reminder about the strength of community and coming together in difficult times.

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour's 100,000 working members across the province, we wish to express our sympathy and condolences to the families and friends impacted by this life-altering event.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the first responders, medical professionals, and volunteers – many of whom are our members – for their selfless duty in responding to the accident, assisting grieving families, and ensuring a world-class recovery for those who were injured. Thank-you for everything you've done, and continue to do...

April 10, 2018

Sask. Party government misses opportunity to invest in Saskatchewan workers

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) is disappointed the Sask. Party government gave up an opportunity to invest in Saskatchewan workers and create good jobs. Premier Scott Moe's first budget offered no change from the Wall-era policies of heartless cuts, ballooning deficits, and disrespect for workers.

"Unfortunately, what we saw in today's budget was more of the same. Same old cuts, same old unfair tax hikes, and the same old refusal to create good jobs by investing in workers," said Larry Hubich, SFL president, "we will take some time to consider the lasting impacts of this budget, but it is pretty clear that Saskatchewan people do not support these types of short-sighted decisions," he added...

April 24, 2018

WCB coverage for taxi drivers should be mandatory, and all other WCB exemptions eliminated

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) is calling on the Sask. Party government to eliminate all exemptions, loopholes, and exclusions that allow some employers to exclude employees from Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) coverage.

"There should be absolutely no exemptions from WCB coverage for workers, including taxi drivers. The recent case involving a Regina taxi driver who was stabbed and carjacked highlights the need to make this change," said SFL president Larry Hubich, "taxi drivers are workers that work for large license-holding companies and there is no reason why they should be excluded from WCB coverage," he added...

April 27, 2018

On National Day of Mourning SFL renews demand for action on workplace violence and harassment

This National Day of Mourning, the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) is calling on the federal and provincial governments to do more to address workplace violence and harassment.

Every April 28th, unions join workers and their families to mourn those who have been injured or killed on the job. Workplace violence and harassment have also led to worker deaths, as well as significant injuries.

"Workplace harassment and violence are often overlooked by employers and governments as hazards of the job," said Larry Hubich, president of the SFL. "In the era of #metoo and #timesup, we need to talk about the negative impacts these hazards can have in the workplace and what should be done about them," he added...

May 25, 2018

Saskatchewan workers celebrate the repeal of Bill 40, vow to continue protecting Crown corporations

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) is celebrating a hard-fought victory – the full repeal of Bill 40. Bill 40 was the Sask. Party government's Crown corporation privatization law. It allowed the government to circumvent voters by selling-off 49% of any Crown without asking Saskatchewan people.

"Workers and the SFL fought the Sask. Party government's Bill 40 from day one," said SFL president Larry Hubich, "we held town hall meetings, small rallies, big rallies, and worked with coalition partners to keep our Crown corporations 100% public for Saskatchewan people," he added...

June 21, 2018

SFL celebrates National Indigenous Peoples Day, encourages members to take part in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) is celebrating June 21st – National Indigenous Peoples Day.

“Today we’re celebrating the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada, as well as continuing to call for the full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,” said SFL president Larry Hubich, “the labour movement in Saskatchewan and across the country is stronger as a result of the many Indigenous members we have, and the perspectives and experiences they bring to their unions,” he added...

July 19, 2018

Canada’s Labour Leaders Urge Premiers to Collaborate on National Universal Pharmacare Plan

National, Provincial and Territorial Labour Leaders encourage Canada’s Premiers to unite behind a universal, single-payer, public prescription drug coverage program. In addition to giving every Canadian access to life-saving prescriptions, a universal Pharmacare plan will free up money for much needed investment in healthcare.

September 4, 2018

Larry Hubich announces retirement after 16 years as SFL president

The long-time president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL), Larry Hubich, has announced he will not seek another term during the SFL’s annual convention this October.

“Serving as president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and defending workers across the province has been the honour of a lifetime,” said Hubich, “after 16 years of leading Saskatchewan’s Labour Movement, the time is right for me to retire and spend more time with my wife, children, and grandchildren,” he added...

September 12, 2018

SFL calls for paid leave for survivors of domestic violence in the Fall Legislative Session

Today, the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) is calling on the provincial government to prepare legislation for the Fall session that would provide necessary supports for domestic violence survivors, including paid leave.

“We know from national and provincial studies that domestic violence follows survivors to the workplace. One of the many ways domestic violence impacts work is survivors may delay or abandon plans to flee their abuser if it could result in losing their job or losing needed wages,” said Lori Johb, Secretary-Treasurer of the SFL, “it breaks my heart that survivors in Saskatchewan must choose between protecting themselves and their children, and keeping their livelihood. We are calling for legislation to be introduced in the Fall session that would guarantee paid leave from work for domestic violence survivors,” she added...

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

1. Worked with the Canadian Labour Congress to host the 2018 Spring School;
2. General mailings, including the Labour Reporter, are going out to locals as usual;
3. May Day events in various centres were advertised;
4. Held the bi-annual SFL Pensions Conference;
5. Day of Mourning information was circulated for ceremonies across the province;
6. Hosted Prairie School for Union Women;
7. The 2018 SFL Summer Camp took place at Camp Easter Seal at Manitou Beach;
8. Advertised and participated in Labour Day celebrations and events across the province;
9. Hosted the Annual SFL OH&S Conference.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - The SFL and many affiliates hold ongoing memberships with the Saskatchewan branch and the national office. CCPA research is utilized, both by the SFL and affiliates, in news releases, policy documents, and submissions to the government.

Next Up - The SFL continues to focus on developing youth leadership and activism. SFL Secretary-Treasurer Lori Johb, and Kent Peterson, the SFL's Strategic Advisor, are on the Saskatoon and Regina Next Up Advisory Committees, to help promote the program and to make recommendations for maintaining its success.

YWCA Regina – The SFL partnered with the YWCA Regina for a second year in a row to host an educational event during Regina's Queen City Pride week. This year the event focused on creating inclusive policies for the LGBTQ+ community.

United Way - The SFL sent out its annual letter of endorsement to affiliated locals, and the United Way will bring greetings at the SFL Annual Convention.

Hillberg & Berk - The SFL partnered with Hillberg & Berk to exclusively sell burgundy earrings and other jewelry as part of our efforts to bring awareness to domestic violence and support survivors. All proceeds from the sales go to transition houses across the province.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- Four issues of the Labour Reporter are published each year, usually focusing on one theme per issue. Labour Reporters are sent out via mail outs, email, and featured articles are occasionally published on the SFL website;
- Regular news releases are going out, not only critiquing the status quo or new government initiatives, but increasingly proposing ideas that represent positive change for working people;
- All written materials are research-based and include references to source material;
- The SFL is increasingly active on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media;
- Increasing branding consistency throughout the federation's materials, especially as it relates to our annual convention, has been a priority this year.

2017 SFL SUMMER CAMP

Logistics

For the 30th year, the SFL Summer Camp was filled with activism, comradery, learning and growth.

The 2018 camp was led by 26 staff: two Camp Directors, a Camp Coordinator, a Recreation Director, four Youth Activity Coordinators (YACs), three recreation staff, two nurses, eight counsellors, and our fabulous team of seven to staff the kitchen.

The camp kicked off with our family BBQ on August 25th with 44 total campers. Of the 44 registered campers, 32 were new to SFL Camp, ten were attending for their second year, and two were at camp for their third. New campers were ecstatic, as they left, about the upcoming 2019 SFL camp, asking parents if they would send them again – an excellent sign!

Staff training was held in Watrous on the Friday before camp (August 24th). Many lasting relationships were formed between staff members and a number have requested to come back next year. Campers arrived Saturday afternoon and were picked up early on Friday morning.

Sessions

Our 2018 camp kicked off at Camp Easter Seal in Manitou Beach with the traditional family BBQ. Our kitchen staffed rocked out over 150 burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers for families and guests. Our traditional opening ceremonies were accompanied with a dedication from Barb Byers to outgoing President Larry Hubich, wishing him well in his retirement and thanking him for his 30 years of service to camp. After the ceremonies, families had a chance to say goodbye and then the campers split into their five locals. These became their camp group for the rest of the week.

Our Saturday night session was spent developing a living “social contract” where campers and counsellors talked about the kinds of behaviour and participation that they needed in order to create a safe, positive environment for our camp. The social contract was established based on the 2018 theme, *Youth as Agents of Change*. Everyone was then given the opportunity to write down one behaviour or action they would bring to the camp for the rest of the week in order to help create the atmosphere that we discussed. The campers were also encouraged to take time to read through the agents of change wall that featured different social movements and the role that youth played in each of them. The social contract and wall of agents of change remained posted in the dining hall for the rest of the week as a reminder of the promises, or “contract”, that we made with each other.

On Sunday morning we expanded on our social contract with our infamous “isms” session. Campers were taught about micro-aggressions and how to respond to them as well as prevent themselves from committing micro-aggressions against others. This session was a great learning experience for campers and staff, with folks discussing the topic throughout the week. We were able to cover racism, ableism, mental health stigmas and LGBTQI2+ issues.

Monday morning was spent negotiating the terms of the 2018 Camp Collective Bargaining Agreement between the staff and the campers. After several rounds of heated discussion and negotiations, both campers and counsellors were able to make several amendments, covering everything from bedtimes and consequences for being late to organized activities, to dance participation and evening chill out time. The agreement was ratified by lunch time on Monday.

Tuesday morning was split into two sessions which took place simultaneously. One session focused on gender, sexuality and LGBTQI2+ issues, presented by Ben Lindsay from OUT!Saskatoon. The campers took part in an interactive session where status quo ideas regarding gender and sexuality were challenged, and campers had an opportunity to ask questions in a safe and supportive environment. The other session was facilitated by Manuela Castro, the new coordinator for NextUp Saskatchewan. Manuela led the campers through a “Zine” project where campers had the opportunity to critically approach sexuality and gender in the media by cutting out problematic images and phrases and creating their own “Zine”. The campers were split into two groups and rotated between sessions.

Wednesday morning was also split into two sessions. One session was led by Randi Candline from Wanuskewin Heritage Park and her daughter Hayden. Randi taught the campers several powwow dances while also explaining the purpose of each dance, regalia, indigenous ways of knowing and reconciliation. The second session was led by ITEP (Indian Teach Education Program) president and FSIN Youth representative Rollin Baldhead, who spoke to the campers about his lived experience as an indigenous youth, the Justice for Our Stolen Children Camp, reconciliation and his journey as an entrepreneur. Both sessions were followed with time spent in locals learning about the TRC and how the campers could foster reconciliation in their communities.

The final morning session on Thursday was led by Jamal Tekleweld from Youth Rising, Taking it Global, a federal government funded initiative that gives grants and mentorship for community focused projects created by youth. Jamal helped campers fill out application forms after his session, and approved two \$250 grants on the spot for two campers to make change in their communities. The session allowed campers to take everything they had learned during the week and become agents of change in their communities with the support of Youth Rising grants. Many campers submitted applications that are being processed in the coming months.

Campers left with the knowledge and tools to become agents of change. Stay tuned for all the amazing activism they take part in over the next year!

Activities

In addition to the educational morning sessions, recreation staff and youth activity coordinators ran an abundance of fun activities. Our camp was equipped with an indoor swimming pool so we alternated beach and pool days throughout the week. At both the beach and pool, campers were able to choose from activities such as swimming, jewellery making, tie dying, paddle boarding, canoeing, paddle boating or just hanging out.

On Sunday night the locals went through a series of initiative tasks, as a local, in order to learn how to communicate and work together. On Monday, campers had the opportunity to take part

in a variety of activities from wallet making, spa pampering, jewellery making, to bowling. Tuesday evening was camp fire night despite the weather, with campers making smores and singing songs for hours. On Wednesday evening, campers had the opportunity to perform at the talent show, with several skits focusing on outgoing president Larry Hubich and, on Thursday night, the campers were treated to our traditional last-night dance.

Thank You's and Donations

The massive success of SFL Camp is all due to affiliate donations, support and other partnerships. Thank you to those who sponsored the registration fee of campers, covered wages of our incredible staff and those who donated money to help cover supply costs. Every little bit donated goes a long way at SFL Camp in helping to build a community of strong, confident young leaders in the labour community. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping to make the SFL Camp possible, and we look forward to your solidarity going into the 31st annual camp.

A Special Thank You to the Unions who Sponsored SFL Camp Counsellors and Cooks

Canadian Union of Public Employees	Grain Services Union
Saskatchewan Federation of Labour	Saskatchewan Union of Nurses
Canadian Office and Professional Employees 397	SEIU West
Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union	Amalgamated Transit Union 615

Items Donated for SFL Camp

Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association	OUT! Saskatoon
Workers' Compensation Board	SUN
SGEU	COPE
CUPE 5430	CUPE National
Allied Printing	CUPE Saskatchewan
National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (University of Manitoba)	

FUNDS CONTRIBUTED FOR 2018

CUPE SCFP	\$150
Tom Hancock	\$50
CUPE Saskatoon	\$328
CUPE Saskatchewan	\$1,610
UNIFOR 609	\$150
U of R Faculty Association	\$500
RWDSU Local 496	\$500
COPE Local 397	\$500
CUPE Local 600	\$200
IBEW 2038	\$500
CUPE Local 5430	\$500
RWDSU Local 950	\$500
SEIU West	\$250
UNIFOR Local 1S	\$2,400
RWDSU Local 955	\$500
RWDSU Local 454	\$500
USW 8933	\$50.00
UNIFOR 609	\$907.20
ATU 615	\$200
GSU	\$1,245
SGEU Crown Sector	\$1,000

Total: \$12,540

THE SFL READY FOR WORK PROGRAM

The Ready for Work (RFW) Program had another outstanding year. The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour prides itself on providing young and new workers with the appropriate knowledge, skills, and training to ensure that they are safe on the job. Each year, the RFW Program advocates the importance of workplace safety, helping teach young and new workers about their rights on the job, how to identify potential hazards, and how to stay safe at a work site.

With the help of a dynamic team of facilitators from across Saskatchewan, the 2017-2018 school year saw 50 presentations to approximately 2100 students. Presentations were delivered across the province, including communities such as Saskatoon, Regina, Melfort, Strasbourg, Yorkton, Melfort, Quill Lake, Balcarres, Lafleche, La Ronge, Lake Lenore, Grenfell, North Battleford, and many more across Saskatchewan. Though the majority of the RFW presentations were delivered in high schools, several other organizations and community groups also received presentations. The RFW Program was lucky enough to book presentations with U of S, Great Plains College, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatchewan Abilities Council (Swift Current), and Catholic Family Services Bridges Program (Prince Albert).

Overall, the Ready for Work Program has been consistently receiving positive feedback from both students and teachers. Many of the schools reached by the program request presentations every year, with some requesting presentations each semester. We have updated the presentation to include the most current information, along with an interactive game. It is important to continue updating resources and materials as information changes from year to year, while retaining the overall message of workplace safety.

Examples of feedback from students:

" Very insightful and interactive."

"This is something that young people NEED to hear before working."

"It really makes you think about how unsafe the workplace can be."

"I really liked that [the facilitator] used real life examples."

"I like the videos and examples of what not to do in the workplace and how you can improve a situation."

"She related everything to real world situations, everyone in the room participated."

"[The facilitator] used examples from her own experiences each slide had a story."

"The presentation was portrayed in a way that got your attention quickly."

Examples of feedback from teachers:

"Good Review of concepts such as PPE, Bullying and harassment, Training and Orientation."

"Includes WHIMIS, safety videos, and great discussion."

“My students were great which means they were interested. Having a presenter in helps reinforce what was taught and brings a different point of view.”

“Good everyday examples materials will be used as follow up and continuing education.”

“Knew the content well. The students participated and were engaged.”

“Should be mandatory so young workers know they have a voice in the workplace”

Day of Mourning

The National Day of Mourning is a day to commemorate workers who have been killed or injured on the job. This year, the Day of Mourning provided the SFL with a platform to spread the message of workplace safety across the province. Most of Saskatchewan’s labour councils held events in their respective areas around the province, condemning workplace deaths and injuries, as well as encouraging citizens to be aware and know their health and safety rights at work.

Submitted by Dionne Duff
SFL Ready for Work Coordinator

PRAIRIE SCHOOL FOR UNION WOMEN

The PSUW celebrated its 22nd year with trade union women from across the Prairies and beyond. The school is an intensive four days of learning and sharing in a supportive environment. The goals of the school are to develop women’s personal and leadership skills and to build solidarity among women workers. The school provides on-site child care and is committed to child-friendly attitudes.

This year was another extremely successful and progressive school with 156 women in attendance plus 10 children. The school featured nine different courses to choose from, all designed with an equity lens, and facilitated by activists from across the country. One new course; *Building Confidence and Celebrating Who You Are* and a revised *Igniting the Spark: Women as Leaders* were part of the selection. All courses were very well attended and received. Each morning we began with a plenary on topics relevant to the labour movement and women’s issues. Evenings were open for recreational activities and various other bonding opportunities.

The school continues to offer a scholarship program funded by our Brown Bag Auction on site, as well as additional funds contributed during our annual Convention fund raising efforts. Money raised allows women of equity seeking groups or those from non-union organizations to be part of this learning, supportive and inclusive atmosphere. We were able to offer four scholarships to women who would not otherwise have been able to attend.

We continued to support two new initiatives: Moon Time Sisters – a collection of feminine hygiene products to assist women and girls who do not have access to necessary items. And in

support of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, along with our red dress display, we encouraged sisters to wear and/or bring red dresses to show solidarity to those affected. The results were very powerful!

By the end of the school, participants felt empowered and ready to take on a stronger role within their unions and communities. Thank you to all the unions that make it possible for our facilitators to attend and share their knowledge with us. We could not do this work without them!

Join us on Facebook – Prairie School for Union Women or on Twitter @PSUW_SFL.

Sisters are welcome and encouraged to be part of the planning for 2019. Please contact Debbie Lussier at the SFL at 525-0197 or d.lussier@sfl.sk.ca if you want to participate. Volunteers are important and we welcome participation.

The 2019 PSUW brochure will be available in January. The dates are June 9-13, 2019.

Submitted by Debbie Lussier and Donna Smith
SFL PSUW Coordinators