

TILMA TIMES

February, 2007

Cities & Municipalities under attack by TILMA

Beware of an economic storm...

TILMA has hit the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

TILMA is the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility agreement which comes into effect April 1, 2007.

The Saskatchewan government is considering signing on.

TILMA has been called a Bill of Rights for corporations. For decades, powerful lobby groups such as the Fraser Institute and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce have been pushing for an agreement that puts corporations on equal footing with governments.

They say we need TILMA to increase labour mobility and to decrease barriers to trade.

But many experts argue

Inter-provincial trade barriers are not a major problem for most professions.

The true aim of TILMA is to create a totally free market economy, to eliminate government regulations that companies say impede the profits of private corporations.

Government procurement, bylaws, local hiring policies, and economic development programs could all be seen as barriers to trade and investment under TILMA.

The Chilling Effect...

TILMA contains an enforcement mechanism, similar to the one in NAFTA.

Governments or private businesses can sue any government (provincial or municipal), for up to \$5 million for existing or future

insignificant and labour mobility is
The dispute panels that rule on
TILMA complaints are not
democratically elected, yet their
rulings are binding.

It stands to reason that if
governments know they can be
sued for regulations and
programs, they will be less likely
to create them at all...a chilling
effect on governance.

That's putting private profits
ahead of the public interest.

Who's Talking about TILMA?

As elected officials representing
various communities throughout
Saskatchewan you may be
wondering what process occurred
in B.C. and Alta. before the
TILMA was signed.

Surely an agreement with such
wide sweeping powers would
have warranted a comprehensive
analysis of its impact on all
sectors of the economy?

And surely such a comprehensive
analysis would have been
available for public consultation
and discussion?

regulations and programs that
impede trade and investment.
In fact, the agreement was signed
with no thorough analysis and no
public consultation or debate.

The government of
Saskatchewan has promised they
will hold broad-based, public
consultations before they sign
TILMA.

Municipal legislators need to
make sure this public debate
happens and to make their voices
heard in the debate.

Cities and municipalities are not
just about providing services and
your constituents are not just
consumers of those services.
Local governments truly
encompass the democratic
process which we embrace as
Canadians.

Now is the time to make your
views known to your MLAs about
TILMA.

***To read more about TILMA,
visit the Saskatchewan
Federation of Labour
website:***

www.sfl.sk.ca/trade.php

Is this the Saskatchewan you were elected to represent?

Take the TILMA Challenge

Based on what you believe best represents the interests of you, your family, and if applicable, the constituents you represent, answer the following questions:

Should the Government of Saskatchewan be restricted in its legislative capacity to act in the best interests of Saskatchewan citizens?

Should local governments such as cities and municipalities, be restricted in their legislative capacity to pass and enforce bylaws, provide services, make purchases and support regional economic development programs?

Should corporations be given the opportunity to sue governments at all levels and be eligible for settlements up to \$5 million per claim?

Like B.C. and Alberta, should Provincial Governments be permitted to sign agreements like TILMA in secret and without public consultation?

If you answered “No” to any of the questions you have passed the TILMA challenge.

Send a message to the Government of Saskatchewan
Say “No” to the
Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement

Say “Yes” to Democratic Government

Sample Resolution to City and Municipal Councils

Inquiry to the City Clerk's Office:

Whereas the Premier of Alberta, Ralph Klein and the Premier of British Columbia have signed a "Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement" without consultation with either their provincial legislatures or the municipalities of either province;

Whereas, the Alberta/B.C. Trade Agreement will function like a municipal North American Free Trade Agreement, by giving extensive new grounds to the private sector to sue local governments for trade infractions such as municipal construction regulations, zoning, quality densification standards etc.;

Whereas it will not come into force until April 2007, but there is already opposition in the west based on the lack of democratic process, i.e. neither the B.C. or Alberta legislatures were ever consulted, nor were any of the municipalities or municipal organizations on the possible consequences for the well being of each province;

Whereas it is possible that the Province of Saskatchewan may sign on to a similar agreement for Saskatchewan without consulting either the public, cities, municipalities or the provincial legislature;

Therefore would the Clerk's Office prepare a report for Council outlining the possible advantages and disadvantages of this kind of Trade Agreement for the City of [insert municipality here] and recommend the proper route to make our concerns known to the government of Saskatchewan.