

Construction workers challenge legislators over proposed labour bill



Terry Parker, business manager of the Saskatchewan Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council, speaks to workers outside the legislature on Wednesday. (Stefani Langenegger/CBC)

About 200 people who work in the construction trades gathered at the Saskatchewan legislature Wednesday morning to express concerns over proposed changes to the province's labour law.

The workers say Saskatchewan has been doing well with the current set of laws overseeing the relationship between contractors and unionized workers such as carpenters, plumbers and electricians.

"The construction industry isn't broken," Terry Parker, the business manager for the Saskatchewan Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council, said in a news release.

According to Parker, proposed legislation, Bill 80, would radically alter how the construction industry is organized.

The bill was under examination Wednesday by a committee of MLAs.

The 200 workers who descended on the legislature were hoping to make an impression on the committee. However, only a few were allowed into the room where the committee was meeting.