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TOPIC: International Labour Organization looking at
Saskatchewan labour bills

Carla Beynon: Anchor

An international organization is criticizing the Saskatchewan government for its passage of several labour laws. It's more of a symbolic win for the unions, but they're still hoping to head off Bill 80. It's a law that will allow contractors to have one union represent all workers on a job site. The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour took its concerns to the International Labour Organization based in Geneva. That organization ruled the government should have spent more time consulting with labour before making major changes to labour laws.

Larry Hubich: Spokesperson, Saskatchewan Federation of
Labour

This is a unanimous recommendation of business, government and labour at the world court on labour law, and they're saying the Saskatchewan government is offside with international law with respect to human rights for working people.

Rob Norris: Saskatchewan Labour Minister

We're a very, very strong proponent of the rights of working people, and certainly our progress, we have more people working in Saskatchewan, we have more people living in Saskatchewan. And in the case of the ILO, the ILO has offered an opinion that's non-binding, and so, I think Mr. Hubich is fear mongering on this.

Carla Beynon:

Among the laws challenges were the province's essential services legislation and changes to the Trade Union Act.