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Manfred Joehnck: Anchor

Another Labour Day has come and gone.

Carla Beynon: Anchor

But the battle of union workers' rights continues in the Province. Yesterday, members of various building trades unions gathered for a picnic outside the Legislative Building to celebrate Labour Day and to protest Bill 80. The legislation allows one union to represent all trades on job sites. Workers say it will result in lower wages and less bargaining power. Today the Government responded. Labour Minister Rob Norris says the Bill is necessary to move Saskatchewan's construction industry forward. He also says it will strengthen the work force in the long run.

Rob Norris: Saskatchewan Labour Minister

They're afraid they're gonna lose their monopoly, and their monopoly probably isn't constitutional. This is about providing union members more choice, and ensuring that we have a stronger Saskatchewan construction sector. That fear mongering really doesn't have any place. The Province is moving forward. The construction sector needs to be stronger.

Carla Beynon:

Bill 80 is just one of several clashes between Organized Labour and the Provincial Government. The Essential Service Law that keeps some workers on the job during strikes was the centre of court challenges and changes to the Trade Union Act were also not welcomed by Organized Labour.