



# SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

Affiliated with The Building Trades Department, A.F.L. – C.I.O.

**PRESIDENT**  
Randy Nichols

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
Terry Parker

**SECRETARY**  
Chuck Rudder



April 9, 2010

## **Opponents to Bill 80 Demonstrate in Regina; Request Meeting with Minister Norris**

Saskatchewan trades people and others opposed to Bill 80 today released an open letter to the Government of Saskatchewan requesting a meeting with Minister of Labour Rob Norris in light of a ruling by the International Labour Organization (ILO). Opponents to Bill 80 will rally outside of the constituency office of MLA Bill Hutchinson.

Since Bill 80 was introduced, the Building Trades have said that the government should have talked to the working men and women of Saskatchewan, and to Saskatchewan construction companies before it developed legislation to radically change the construction industry. Now that position is supported by a ruling of an important international agency.

“We are here today to ask that the government of Saskatchewan meet with us to reconsider Bill 80 in light of the ILO ruling that the government should consult **before** they develop labour legislation,” said Terry Parker, Business Manager for the Saskatchewan Building Trades. “We’re asking for Minister Norris to meet with us so that we may jointly develop an alternative to Bill 80 that accommodates the interests of Saskatchewan workers and contractors and will ensure that the Saskatchewan construction industry can meet the needs of a growing provincial economy.”

By the government’s own admission, the construction sector in Saskatchewan is hotter than it has ever been. 2008’s \$9.8 billion in new construction investments was more than double the amount in 2004.

“Our construction industry is booming and it’s been strike free for 17 years. We’re here today to tell the government **If It Ain’t Broke, Don’t Fix It**,” said Parker. “Bill 80 will destabilize the construction industry, take money from Saskatchewan workers and contractors, and send it out-of-province”

The open letter from the Building Trades to Minister Norris is attached and is also available at [www.SayNoToBill80.ca](http://www.SayNoToBill80.ca)

The rally will take place at 12 Noon at the Constituency office of Bill Hutchinson, MLA for Regina South at Unit 6, 4420 Albert Street, Regina.

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For more information, contact:  
Terry Parker, Saskatchewan Building Trades  
359-0006 or 529-5284



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April 6, 2010

The Honourable Rob Norris  
Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour  
Room 208, Legislative Building  
2405 Legislative Drive  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Norris:

I am writing to you to request a meeting to discuss your government's proposed changes to the Construction Industry Labour Relations Act through Bill 80 in light of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) recent non-binding ruling on your consultations on labour legislation.

You will know that at the outset, it has been the position of the Building Trades that consulting with workers, unions and contractors in Saskatchewan before you developed Bill 80 would have been much preferable to the approach of drafting the legislation first. We said as much at the public hearings into Bill 80 and reiterated this point in a letter that we wrote to Premier Wall on October 19, 2009.

"The Saskatchewan Building Trades and our members have been vocal in our criticism of Bill 80, not the least of which owing to your government's decision to not consult with Saskatchewan workers or contractors beforehand. Nonetheless, it remains the view of the Building Trades that Saskatchewan works best when business, labour and government work together."

The ILO appears to be in agreement with our position and stated the following in their recent ruling on your government's *Essential Services Act* and changes to the *Trade Unions Act*. In specific, the ILO stated:

- (a) *The Committee expects that the Government will ensure that the provincial authorities hold full and specific consultations with the relevant workers' and employers' organizations in the future at an early stage of considering the process of adoption of any legislation in the field of labour law so as to restore the confidence of the parties and truly permit the attainment of mutually acceptable solutions where possible.*

While it is too late to consult with us "... at an early stage of considering the process of adoption of any legislation," it is not too late to reconsider your approach to Bill 80. In the spirit of the ILO ruling, which I am sure you will agree was measured and moderate, I suggest that we meet to discuss an alternate approach that will involve and accommodate the interests of Saskatchewan workers and contractors from the outset and will ensure that the Saskatchewan construction industry can meet the needs of a growing provincial economy.

Sincerely,

Terry, Parker, Business Manager  
SPB&CTC