



SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

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Building Trades Rally at Legislature

Saskatchewan building trades people are rallying today at the provincial legislature to “Say No To Bill 80.”

“We’ve had enough of half-truths, mistruths and falsehoods from this government” said Terry Parker, Business Manager of the Saskatchewan Building Trades. “We don’t need Bill 80, we don’t want Bill 80 and we won’t stand by while government politicians try to push through Bill 80.”

In 2006 before Brad Wall became Premier, the Saskatchewan Building Trades invited him to speak at its convention. At that time Brad Wall was asked what his plans were for the Construction Industry Labour Relations Act (CILRA) if he formed government. The soon-to-be Premier’s answer was that the Saskatchewan Party did not feel the Act was a barrier to growth. On March 10, 2009 his Minister of Labour, Rob Norris, introduced amendments to CILRA through Bill 80 contrary to Wall’s 2006 commitment.

“At the time he introduced Bill 80, Minister Norris told reporters that he had not consulted with any business entities or construction firms in the drafting of the legislation,” said Parker. “This too, has been shown to be less than truthful. Materials obtained through Freedom of Information now show that the Saskatchewan Construction Association wrote to Norris and Wall in October of 2008 demanding the exact legislative changes contained in Bill 80.”

At the time that it introduced Bill 80, the government of Saskatchewan committed to public consultations through the Standing Committee on Human Services. Despite commitments from the Minister in writing that he would review the report of the Standing Committee, the Minister has now said that he would pass Bill 80 as is without even receiving the report.

“The actions of Premier Wall and Minister Norris have produced inferior legislation, they have cheapened the quality of public debate in Saskatchewan and they have reinforced the notion that government knows best and doesn’t need to listen to anyone else,” said Parker. “They will say one thing and do another.”

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