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## **Building Trades Call on Minister Norris to Come Clean on Consultations**

The Saskatchewan Building Trades are today calling on Minister Rob Norris to come clean on who is behind Bill 80.

“We learned this week that members of the Enterprise Saskatchewan Construction and Land Development Sector Team – all but one of whom made significant financial contributions to the Saskatchewan Party – were calling on the government to implement the Bill 80 changes to the construction sector five months before the Bill was introduced,” said Terry Parker, Business Manager for the Saskatchewan Building Trades. “Yet when the Minister was asked by CBC reporter Stefani Langenegger on the day that Bill 80 was introduced whether any business entities or construction firms were consulted on Bill 80 the Minister flatly answered: NO.”

**CBC:** Who did you consult with prior to this legislation being drafted?

**Minister Norris:** We’ve consulted with both unions and employers.

**CBC:** Which unions?

**Minister Norris:** We’ve heard from – certainly we’ve heard from CLAC; there have been discussions with CEP and then a number of employers.

**CBC:** Heard from them or consulted with them in the drafting of this legislation.

**Minister Norris:** In the drafting of this legislation...this has been drafted by the Ministry of Justice and hasn’t been shared with any stakeholders.

**CBC:** By the Ministry of Justice?

**Minister Norris:** Yes it has been.

**CBC:** And no business entities or construction firms were consulted in the drafting of this legislation?

**Minister Norris:** No.

The Saskatchewan Construction Association tabled with Enterprise Saskatchewan a letter to Minister Rob Norris dated October 10, 2008 that calls for new rules on abandonment and changes to allow alternative unions such as the Christian Labour

Association of Canada into Saskatchewan's construction industry. These are the two main features of Bill 80. The correspondence from the SCA was obtained through a FOI request and is available at [owlsandroosters.blogspot.com](http://owlsandroosters.blogspot.com).

"While the Minister was clearly listening to the Saskatchewan Party donors, he has been shutting us out," said Randy Nichols, Business Manager for the UA 179. "At the end of August we provided to the Minister a submission on Bill 80 that he has all but ignored. The Minister's office committed to provide it to the Human Services Committee and that hasn't happened either."

In addition Boilermakers 555 provided a brief to the Minister that has also not been given to the Human Services Committee.

"We put a lot of time, effort and thought into our submission," said Dallas Rogers of the Boilermakers. "We respected the process and expected it to be legitimate. It looks now like the whole thing was a sham."

For more information and to hear the above clip of Minister Norris go to [saynotobill80.ca](http://saynotobill80.ca).

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