



SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

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

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GOVERNMENT SHORT CIRCUITS PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON BILL 80

With only two-days warning, the government of Saskatchewan has re-convened its public consultations on Bill 80.

“Many of our members are very concerned with Bill 80 and wanted to be present for the Minister’s testimony at the public consultations on Bill 80,” said Terry Parker, Business Manager for the Saskatchewan Building Trades. “Re-convening the public hearings with only two days notice short-circuits the public part of the public consultation process.”

Despite repeated requests from the Saskatchewan Building Trades to clarify the process, timing and conclusion of its public consultation on Bill 80, the government has on very short notice returned Bill 80 to the Human Services Committee of the Legislative Assembly. The Human Services Committee is not meeting the standard it committed to at the start of the process. The Committee’s first report committed to the following: “Advertisements giving notice of the committee’s proceedings will be placed in the Friday and Saturday editions of each Saskatchewan daily newspaper and also be placed in each Saskatchewan weekly newspaper.”

“I am worried that the government has decided to force Bill 80 through because they can see that opposition to it is growing,” said Parker. “The solution to bad legislation is not to try to force it through while no one is watching. It’s to fix it.”

The Building Trades Council is also concerned that the Human Services Committee has not yet made public its plans to report to the Assembly and the public on their consultations. Until the report of the Human Services Committee is made public it is impossible to tell if the changes that the government is considering will be an improvement or make a bad situation worse.

During the hearings in June, numerous witnesses presented real and substantial concerns with the legislation. The government owes a transparent and fair process to the presenters who put a lot of time and effort into preparing their submissions.

“The construction industry in Saskatchewan isn’t broken but the government’s public consultation process on Bill 80 might be.”

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For more information, contact:

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