



SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

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

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The Construction Industry Isn't Broken. Don't "Fix It" With Bill 80

The construction industry in Saskatchewan is healthier than it has ever been with an all-time high \$2 Billion dollars in activity and 37,000 people employed in 2008. MLA's heard today not to mess with success.

The Saskatchewan Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council (Building Trades) made a presentation to a legislative committee conducting public hearings into Bill # 80: *An Act to Amend the Construction Industry Labour Relations Act, 2009*.

"The construction industry isn't broken," said Terry Parker, Business Manager for the Building Trades. "Don't Fix it."

Bill 80 proposes sweeping changes to the way the construction industry is organized in Saskatchewan and will give contractors from outside of Saskatchewan and their workers an advantage over local companies and workers.

"The system proposed under Bill 80 will create two parallel systems of regulation for the construction sector," said Parker. "Not only will this be confusing and difficult to implement, but it will create an unlevel playing field between Saskatchewan unions and contractors working in the existing system, and new contractors and unions working in the system created by Bill 80."

The changes proposed in Bill 80 will allow construction companies – not workers – to choose the union on the job site. It will also enable unionized contractors operating in Saskatchewan to shed their union certifications through so-called abandonment provisions.

"The abandonment provisions of Bill 80 are especially regressive," said Parker. "Bill 80 will retroactively allow companies to decertify their unions even if workers clearly voted for and support their union."

The Saskatchewan Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council called on the Saskatchewan government to set aside Bill 80 and work with organized labour and business to further improve the already strong construction sector.

"We strongly believe that Saskatchewan works best when labour, business and government work together," said Parker.

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