

From The Hall

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The Provincial Election is next Monday, November 7. For some of you it is just another election like all the rest yet every election has an impact on our Membership.

Last week “Right to Work” Legislation was discussed. In many states in the southern U.S.A. there is right to work legislation which allows employees in unionized companies the option of working under the collective agreement receiving the benefits of that agreement and not having to pay Union dues. This undermines the Unions’ bargaining power and keeps their wage and benefit package lower than other states where there is no right to work legislation.

Martin Luther King said it best in the early 1960’s more than 50 years ago “In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, as ‘right-to-work.’ It provides no ‘rights’ and ‘no works.’ Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining... We demand this fraud be stopped.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

All of our Members need to talk with your candidates to find out:

- Where they stand on Right to Work Legislation, Fair Collective Bargaining, Changes to Bills 5 & 6 (The Essential Services Legislation)?
- Future generation requirements and whether SaskPower or private companies will build and staff it?
- What parties plan for contracting out work in SaskPower and which employee group is best suited to do that work?
- What is the plan to replace doctors and health care providers in the communities we work and how long should people go without getting checkups because there is no doctor?
- What is the plan for the Electrical Inspector Department and the possible move out of SaskPower?
- Is there any plan to add more OH&S employees to check up on employers who are not following proper safety protocols?
- What conditions if any are placed on any International or non-Canadian company’s which may consider buying a Saskatchewan operation or company like Sherritt Coal?
- What requirements if any are requested when international workers are brought into the workforce to validate their training or certificates?
- What is the plan to replace the aging workforce in Saskatchewan and will staffing levels be maintained whether you’re working for a Crown, government agency or a private company?
- Will SaskPower be allowed to bargain on its own and not be tied to the provincial mandate?

These are just some of the questions that need to be asked of your candidates and you can find their phone numbers or email addresses on the many pamphlets dropped in your mail box.

After November 7 some of these questions may be answered for you and you may not like the answers but you have 4 years to live with your decision, whether you voted or not. Please talk to your candidates and exercise your democratic rights!

Fraternally yours,

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