



Saskatchewan Labour Changes in 2008

Bill 6: Trade Union Act Amendment

- Require 45% support before a union can apply for certification (was 25%)
- provide for secret ballot votes for all certification/decertification applications where a majority of persons eligible must actually vote
- allow employers to communicate directly with their employees on a factual and opinion basis provide that there is no intimidation, coercion or threat involved in same
- provide a 90 day time limit for the filing of unfair labour practice complaints
- require the Labour Relations Board to render decisions within 6 months of hearings
- repeal the current 3 year limit on the length of a collective agreement

These changes basically provide employees with their democratic rights

Bill 5: The Public Service Essential Services Act

- provide a mechanism to decide which public sector activities/services are essential to the public good and which employees must remain at work to maintain those activities/services during a strike
- require public sector employers and unions to negotiate essential service agreements before the expiry of their collective agreements
- determine that where no such agreement is reached, employers will designate the essential services and employees required subject to appeal by the union to the Labour Relations Board
- Provide for significant fines to any organization or party violating the Act.

The unions are, of course, very opposed to these changes are taking the government to court over these changes.