

Bill 5 (*The Public Service Essential Services Act*) and Bill 6 (*The Trade Union Act*) are among the most draconian pieces of legislation attacking working people in Canada.

The effect of Bill 5 is essentially giving away our right to free collective bargaining by taking away our right to strike. The Bill takes away our right to strike by allowing employers and government the right to determine who is “essential” in a workplace. Just imagine how many workers will be deemed essential by their employers.

The amendments to the Trade Union Act Bill 6 are nothing short of a direct attack on workers. For example, the change to include compulsory votes anytime there is an application to certify a union, regardless of the number of signed union cards. In addition, workers who don't vote at all will have their “vote” counted as a no vote.

The last time I checked, negative voting violates a series of laws as well as *The Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Interestingly, if that concept was applied to the Saskatchewan Party in the last election, they would not have won. In my opinion, Bills 5 and 6 are driven by ideology and not by the needs of Saskatchewan citizens. Premier Wall must govern on behalf of all the people of Saskatchewan.

I'm asking you today to do two things. First, please log on to the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour website www.sfl.sk.ca and sign the on line petition and say “No Thanks to the Minister of Labour Rob Norris” at legislationfeedback@lab.gov.sk.ca .

Second, please join me in Saskatoon on International Labour Day-May 1st where we will march with our CEP sisters and brothers who will be attending the Saskatchewan Area Council at the Radisson Hotel to the Saskatchewan Party headquarters and demand that Bills 5 & 6 are withdrawn and to consult with the citizens of Saskatchewan.

It is critical that we take action today. Our very working lives depend on it. I'll see you in Saskatoon.

In solidarity

Dave Coles,
CEP National President