



January 22, 2008

Open Letter to:  
Honourable Lyle Stewart  
Minister of Enterprise and Innovation  
Government of Saskatchewan

**Re: Enterprise Saskatchewan**

Dear Minister Stewart:

By now you will have received correspondence from the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) dated January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, responding to your invitation to put forward nominees for the Board of Enterprise Saskatchewan. In it, we ask a number of questions, including:

- Are we correct in assuming that the SFL will be a prescribed organization as contemplated in Bill 2?
- Can all other labour organizations who have been asked for nominees assume they are considered prescribed organizations?
- Why did some unions receive an invitation to put forward nominees and not others?

We await your response to these inquiries as the nomination process unfolds.

The purpose of this follow-up letter is to provide you with a number of additional questions and concerns that arose at our recent meeting of union leaders, specifically in regards to Enterprise Saskatchewan. We look forward to your timely response to the following inquiries:

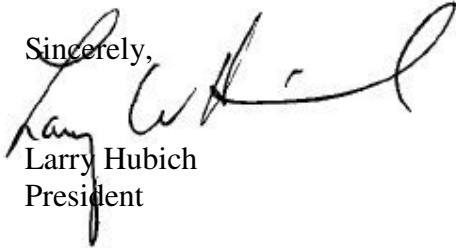
- 1) Why does Saskatchewan need Enterprise Saskatchewan in the first place?  
Saskatchewan is experiencing a growing economy, a low unemployment rate, and increasing population. We are experiencing record land sales in the oil patch, and elsewhere. We are uncertain as to the rationale and the purpose of Enterprise Saskatchewan, given the current booming economic climate.
- 2) The former Department of Industry and Resources previously played a lead role in formulating and implementing economic development policy for the province. What is the purpose of creating a separate advisory body to oversee economic development? Why do the Ministries of Energy and Resources and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation require the help of this separate Board, when they are staffed with experienced and knowledgeable civil servants and government appointees?

- 3) The Board of Enterprise Saskatchewan is not elected. To whom is it accountable in its decision-making? By what means will it demonstrate its accountability? The labour movement believes that we elect our decision-makers through a democratic process, and that those decision-makers are held accountable by the citizens of the province, through formal Legislative processes. Why is the government apparently bypassing those processes in favour of having an advisory body made up of private, unelected citizens?
- 4) New Deputy Minister, Dale Botting has said that Enterprise Saskatchewan will be required to report to the public on how the government has performed in certain areas, whether it has been good or bad. Why do we need this Board to do that work when we have stakeholders from across the province, from all industries, sectors, and communities who follow very closely how the Government performs? As in other democracies, we also have an Opposition Party in the legislature whose mandate and responsibility is to do just that. The Provincial Auditor is doing an exemplary job of ensuring the financial accountability of government and reports annually to the citizens.
- 5) What kind of expenses will be required to run Enterprise Saskatchewan? Is this a responsible use of taxpayer dollars, when as mentioned above, existing government departments can initiate and implement economic development policies? What will the cost be of hiring a chief executive officer, with staff? What is the annual budget of Enterprise Saskatchewan, and where is the money coming from?
- 6) Section 4 of Bill 2 outlines the multitude of purposes of Enterprise Saskatchewan and those purposes are very sweeping in nature. For example, the Board is to do surveys and studies of many sectors; to provide recommendations and advice on a wide array of issues and programs; to establish goals and measurements for the economy; and to promote or undertake just about any program or activity that it (the Enterprise Saskatchewan Board), or Cabinet sees fit. Are not these the things we elect our government to do?
- 7) We are very concerned about the extensive powers provided to Enterprise Saskatchewan under Section 5. In particular, subsection (d) states that Enterprise Saskatchewan can accept contributions or receive moneys from any source. Does this mean that private groups can donate financially to Enterprise Saskatchewan? What types of contributions, outside of government funding, are contemplated?
- 8) Finally, the legislated ability of the Cabinet to transfer public assets and authority to Enterprise Saskatchewan is significant and sweeping. Some describe this as a method to divest Saskatchewan citizens of our Crown Corporations outside of the legislature. We are seeking your government's assurance that such is not the case, and that Enterprise Saskatchewan will not be vested with the power and authority to divest of public assets.

Bill 2 has not yet reached second reading and third reading and the regulations have not been written. Without the details of the regulations, we cannot know which organizations are prescribed, or the process by which organizations are to nominate members for the Board. By acting in advance of the Bill becoming a law and the regulations coming into force, your government appears to be circumventing proper and legal democratic process. We seriously question the wisdom and legality of proceeding without ensuring the necessary legislative framework is in place through thorough and proper debate and adequate due process. These are significant safeguards in place through the democratic processes of the legislature.

We look forward to your timely response to the above questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Hubich', written over the printed name and title.

Larry Hubich  
President

cc: Premier Brad Wall  
Saskatchewan Labour Leaders

/cupe 4828