



The

Saskatchewan

Defender

"TO KEEP YOUR RIGHT OF FREE CHOICE FREE"

October, 2012 to June, 2013



SPECIAL EDITION

We're Back

After a hiatus of several months *The Defender* is back in print. The editor apologizes if anyone felt offended in any way because local or unit matters were not reported on. We will do our best to bring everyone up to date and regular printings of *The Defender* will resume as usual. In this edition please note the scholarship applications which many have called the offices about. The Joint Board has decided to push back the final date for applications to give time for members and their children to apply. Once again we are sorry for dropping the ball. We have stayed busy nonetheless and the Union did not stop functioning.

RWDSU Local 568 – The Most Generous Local in the Province

Media Release, Saskatoon, May 24, 2013: Station 20 West is pleased to announce a donation equivalent to \$50,000 from the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) Local 568. In 2012-13, Station 20 West held the Foodstock Lottery, which boasted the grand prize of a brand new truck and trailer. Saskatchewan's union movement continued their strong support of Station 20 West as major sponsors for the lottery. RWDSU Local 568 won the lottery grand prize in early 2013, and donated the \$50,000 truck and trailer back to Station 20 West. Doug Foote, president of RWDSU Local 568, says a motion was made at a Local meeting "to buy a book of 25 tickets for the Station 20 West Lottery and that any prizes won would be donated back to Station 20 West." This motion was carried unanimously.

Len Usiskin, a director with Station 20 West, praised the continued support from Saskatchewan unions: "We appreciate the ongoing commitment to core communities shown by Saskatchewan unions. This

latest gift from RWDSU Local 568 represents a major contribution to Station 20 West's capital campaign. As a result, the community enterprise centre is in a stronger financial position, and this gives us more ability to provide a home to organizations that are enhancing the economic and social well-being of Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods. This is only the latest example of the extremely generous support we have received from Saskatchewan's labour movement and we are very thankful for their solidarity."

Station 20 West is a community enterprise centre devoted to the social and economic revitalization of Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods. Station 20 West is home to Quint Development Corporation, CHEP Good Food Inc., Good Food Junction Grocery Store, Saskatoon Mothers' Centre, Kids First, Saskatoon Health Region's Building Health Equity Team, University of Saskatchewan Community Outreach and Engagement Centre, the Boxcar Café and a multi-purpose room.

**PLEASE RESPECT PICKET LINES
WHEREVER THEY APPEAR**

Convention 2011

President



Jeff Peters, Local 558

Secretary-Treasurer



Garry Burkart, Local 955

Vice-Presidents

Co-op Division



Wanda Bartlett, Local 635

Food Division



Ken Mayes, Local 454

General Division



Craig Horbay, Local 558

Who Is In RWDSU Local 568?

One cannot discuss the cover story of this edition of *The Defender* without describing Local 568. It is a Regina Local whose members are in the General Division of the Union and they should be individually acknowledged. Members of Local 568 are employees in the following bargaining units: Briarpatch Magazine, Brink's Canada Limited, Cafeteria Board at the Legislature as well as the T.C. Douglas Building, Canadian Linen and Uniform Service, Conexus Arts Centre, Evraz Place, Holiday Inn Express and Suites,

Hospital Laundry Services, Prairieland Exhibition Corporation, Casino Regina Food and Beverage, Saskatchewan Institute on Community Living, Sodexo, Starbucks Coffee Company (Gordon Road location) and Signal Industries. Thank you for making us proud to be trade unionists and members of RWDSU. We should also note that most RW locals around the Province forked over \$500 for a book of tickets including Joint Board staff.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

GENERAL DIVISION



*Gord Clarke
Local 568*



*Mike Arno
Local 558*



*Dean Colbow
Local 568*



*Tyson Boege
Local 568*

FOOD DIVISION



*Kevin Stark
Local 454*



*Blain McAlaster
Local 480*



*Marg Fisher
Local 454*



*Jeremy Jijian
Local 454*

CO-OP DIVISION



*Colin Lemauviel
Local 544*



*Wendy Goldbeck
Local 539*



*Tammie Nelson
Local 455*



*Candace Hartmier
Local 955*

Y
O
U
T
H
M
E
M
B
E
R
S

ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

General Division



*Colin Chamberlain
Local 558*

Food Division



*Joanne Ehrmantraut
Local 454*

Co-op Division



*Sheldon Fowler
Local 950*



*Dianne Wilderman
Local S-955*



*Tracey Dulle
Local 480*



*Darren Deck
Local 496*

YOUTH ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

General Division



*Hillary Patel
Local 568*

Food Division



*Jeff Lupichuk
Local 454*

Co-op Division



*Crystal Davidson
Local 496*

Have a Problem?

Need Information?

Call or email your Union office:

Regina

Phone: 569-9311 Toll Free: 1-877-747-9378
Fax: 569-9521 Email: rwdsu.regina@sasktel.net

Saskatoon

Phone: 384-9885 Toll Free: 1-877-717-9378
Fax: 384-1006 Email: rwdsu.saskatoon@sasktel.net

Legal/Organizing Fund Bumped up to .04 cents An Hour

A very important step was taken at convention to bolster this very important program. Currently all members pay .02 cents an hour into this fund out of which all legal costs for Locals' arbitrations, applications to the Labour Relations Board and appeals to the courts are paid. There is a bit of money left in the fund but everyone is predicting court challenges and a myriad of legal problems when the Sask Party's new labour legislation comes into law. *The Defender* has already dedicated a lot of print to the Government's Bill 85. We did not get 'Right to Work' legislation but suffice it to say all the rules governing the conduct of unions will be changing. For example the right to strike has been severely limited with a process that totally favours the employer. The regulations aren't in place yet but it appears that if a bargaining unit wants to scrap with the boss that will only happen after at least a year of legal snakes and ladders. There is no doubt we will run a foul of the law no matter what happens hence we will be off to the courts rather than the picket line.

As previously mentioned all legal costs incurred by Local Unions come out of this fund. There has not been an increase since it was first set up in 2003 and goodness knows lawyers' fees and related legal costs have increased substantially. Larry Kowalchuk is now back in private practice and still doing the majority of arbitrations for RWDSU but the Joint Board must look at other firms for legal assistance depending on the issue. And don't forget all of these assessments are 100% tax deductible.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



The Saskatchewan Joint Board, in co-operation with RWDSU Locals, is offering 29 scholarships to the sons and daughters of RWDSU members or to members themselves who are enrolled in first or second year university or vocational school as full-time students. Local 950 offers a \$1,000.00 Kelly Kearns memorial scholarship and the Joint Board also honours his memory with a \$1,000.00 scholarship. Kelly was a former President of Local 950. Local 454 sponsors three \$1,500.00 scholarships, one in memory of Len Wallace another recognizing long-time member Olga Dmytrow and the third in honour of Chris Banting. The Joint Board also offers a \$1,000.00 award in Chris Banting's name. Locals 558, 568, 635, and 955 each sponsor a \$1,000.00 scholarship. The Joint Board and Local 568 are each funding a \$1,000.00 scholarship in the memory of Irene Jackman long-time staff person of the Joint Board and the Joint Board honours the memory of Shirley Grant by way of a \$1,000.00 annual award. The Joint Board finances a \$1,000.00 scholarship as well as a further \$1,000.00 scholarship to honour the memory of former Joint Board President Don Mills. The United General Workers Union, which represents all employees of the Joint Board, funds a \$1,000.00 award. Local 539 offers a \$1,000.00 scholarship in recognition of long-time Local Executive members Bernie and Kevin Burrell and in addition, shares the cost of the \$1,000.00 George Gabora award with the Joint Board. Local 480 offers a \$1,000.00 award in memory of Bill Clubb and Local S-635 and S-955 each offer a \$1,000.00 scholarship. RW British Columbia and the Joint Board share the cost of the \$1,000.00 Don Garcia award. As well, Local 496 awards two \$1,000.00 scholarships, Local 544 funds three \$1,000.00 scholarships and Local 455 sponsors a \$1,000.00 award in memory of Liz Brown. The Joint Board also honours the memory of Len Wallace with an additional \$1000.00 scholarship. Applicants need only complete the following form and send it to the Joint Board office at 1233 Winnipeg Street, Regina, S4R 1K1. **THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS July 31, 2013.** Applications from sons or daughters of RWDSU members must be signed by the parent who is a member.

Name of Applicant _____ Age _____

Address _____ P. Code _____ Phone _____

Name of present school _____

If not now in school, give grade completed and year _____

Brief summary of educational background and future plans _____

Name of parent(s) or self belonging to RWDSU _____

Shop employed _____ Local Union Number _____

Date _____ Signature _____

October, 2012 Lottery Winners

\$100.00 Winners

Steve Champagne, Local 454 (Canada Safeway) Regina
Jamie Shishkin, Local 955 (Howard Johnson) Yorkton
Larry Wehrkamp, Local 496 (Feed Mill) Melfort
Regina Nemeth, Local 480 (Canada Safeway) Saskatoon
Len Spark, Local 544 (Co-op) North Battleford
Lee Gliddon, Local 955 (Leon's) Yorkton
Jerrilyn Gerein, Local 496 (Canada Safeway) Prince Albert
Danny Bogard, Local 539 (Sherwood Co-op) Regina
Daniele Larter, Local 950 (Canada Safeway) Swift Current
Trinidad Gonzales, Local 558 (Alsco) Saskatoon

\$250.00 Winners

Jarrold Thiele, Local 454 (McKesson) Regina
Jodi Young, Local 455 (Casino)

December, 2012 Lottery Winners

\$100.00 Winners

Rick Materi, Local 455 (Thunder Creek Pork) Moose Jaw
Shane Wood, Local 539 (Sherwood Co-op) Regina
Randal Wall, Local 558 (Canadian Linen) Saskatoon
Kelly Anderson, Local 544 (Co-op) North Battleford
Brody Moate, Local 950 (Canada Safeway) Swift Current
Joan Krochak, Local 955 (Credit Union) Yorkton
Tracy Tarrant, Local 496 (Beeland Co-op) Tisdale
Kandra Sinclair, Local 568 (Canadian Linen) Regina
Jordan Eiffert, Local 955 (Co-op) Yorkton
Wendy Lunde, Local 634 (Co-op) Weyburn

\$250.00 Winners

Netta Foster, Local 480 (Canada Safeway) Saskatoon
Sandra Roach, Local 454 (Canada Safeway) Regina

November, 2012 Lottery Winners

\$100.00 Winners

Diane Antonovitch, Local 455 (Southland Co-op) Assiniboia
Clinton Sorensen, Local 544-K (Co-op) Kindersley
Tina Bunnie, Local 568 (Conexus Arts Centre) Regina
Ben Eliuk, Local S-955 (Lilydale) Wynyard
Wanda Forsyth, Local S-635 (Southern Plains Co-op) Estevan
Daniel White, Local 454 (Canada Safeway) Regina
Lisa Weber, Local 496 (Prairie North Co-op) Melfort
Zach Muench, Local 545 (Co-op) Humboldt
Alan Leugner, Local 480 (Canada Safeway) Saskatoon
Daniel Terleski, Local 558 (Coca-Cola) Saskatoon

\$250.00 Winners

Iris Disiewich, Local 496 (Co-op) Prince Albert
Rodney Spencer, Local 540 (Federated Co-op) Regina

January, 2013 Lottery Winners

\$100.00 Winners

Lynne Webb, Local S-955 (Co-op) Wynyard
Derek Klaassen, Local 454 (Sobeys) Regina
Janell Rempel, Local S-635 (Southern Plains Co-op) Estevan
Caitlyn Anderson, Local 455 (Southland Co-op) Gravelbourg
Brad Boulton, Local 558 (Alsco) Saskatoon
Geraldine Kowch, Local 539 (Sherwood Co-op) Regina
Cindy Taylor, Local 455 (Casino) Moose Jaw
Jasmine Germsheid, Local 544-K (Co-op) Kindersley
Linda Chasse, Local 496 (Canada Safeway) Prince Albert
Donald Perkins, Local 540 (Federated Co-op) Regina

\$250.00 Winners

Dakota Giverhaug, Local 950 (Canada Safeway) Swift Current
Ken Chabun, Local 568 (Evraz Place) Regina

“When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the Poor have no food, they call me a communist.”

Bishop Helder Camara

February, 2013 Lottery Winners

\$100.00 Winners

Michael Sehn, Local 454 (McKesson) Regina
Grant Crowe, Local 496 (Beeland Co-op) Tisdale
Ron Shurko, Local 955 (Leons) Yorkton
Charryse Beech, Local 455 (Temple Gardens) Moose Jaw
Gordon Cave, Local 544 (Co-op) North Battleford
Mona Gray, Local 568 (Hospital Laundry) Regina
Teri Rudolph, Local 480 (Canada Safeway) Saskatoon
Lenis LaRoque, Local 558 (Coca-Cola) Saskatoon
Laurie Norman, Local 635 (Co-op) Weyburn
Shane Bourassa, Local 568 (Brink's) Regina

\$250.00 Winners

Julia Hill, Local 454 (Canada Safeway) Regina
Rosezetta Zwingli, Local 496 (Prairie North Co-op) Melfort

April, 2013 Lottery Winners

\$100.00 Winners

Kayla Rusk, Local 454 (Safeway) Regina
Terry Peters, Local 455 (Thunder Creek Pork) Moose Jaw
Jordan Derr, Local 496 (Prairie North Co-op) Melfort
Kelly Clark, Local 539 (Sherwood Coop) Regina
Linaya Sidebottom, Local 544 (Co-op) North Battleford
Reanne Berry, Local 545 (Co-op) Young
Cory Amendt, Local 558 (Pepsi) Saskatoon
Amanda Baker, Local 568 (Casino Regina) Regina
Preston Bilokraly, Local S-635 (Co-op) Estevan
Elon Hall, Local 950 (Safeway) Swift Current

\$250.00 Winners

Cheryl Reese, Local 955 (Best Western) Yorkton
Rosemary Ponto, Local 635 (Co-op) Weyburn

March, 2013 Lottery Winners

\$100.00 Winners

Sukhwinder Singh, Local 454 (Sysco) Regina
Kenneth Baldhead, Local 558 (Canadian Linen) Saskatoon
Fee Ming Fong, Local 950 (Pioneer Co-op) Swift Current
Brice Bear, Local S-955 (Lilydale) Wynyard
Stephanie Prima, Local 480 (Canada Safeway) Saskatoon
Luann Struck, Local 545 (Co-op) Humboldt
Gaylene Ell, Local 568 (Evraz Place) Regina
Donald Monastyrski, Local 955 (Morris) Yorkton
Tim Coleman, Local 568 (Signal Industries) Regina
Sarah Palynchuk, Local 544-K (Co-op) Kindersley

\$250.00 Winners

Carol Dube, Local 455 (Southland Co-op) Assiniboia
Eileen Yakimchuk, Local 496 (Co-op) Prince Albert

May, 2013 Lottery Winners

\$100.00 Winners

Lily Day, Local 454 (Sobeys) Regina
Kunal Magoo, Local 480 (Canada Safeway) Saskatoon
Aaron Machuk, Local 539 (Sherwood Coop) Regina
Anthony Tumack, Local 540 (Federated Co-op) Regina
Deanna Mock, Local 544-K (Co-op) Kindersley
Michelle Arnott, Local 558 (Brink's) Saskatoon
Cindy Blair, Local 568 (Canadian Linen) Regina
Carol Antoniuk, Local 568 (Conexus Arts Centre) Regina
Gaylene Porter, Local 955 (Co-op) Yorkton
Candice Bolt, Local S-955 (Co-op) Wynyard

\$250.00 Winners

Bernice LaRose, Local 455 (Casino) Moose Jaw
Lauraine Toth, Local 496 (Safeway) Prince Albert

**UNIONS DO GOOD
THINGS FOR
PEOPLE**

Saskatchewan Joint Board 37th Biennial Convention

RWDSU Saskatchewan's convention held every two years was once again held in Humboldt. The three day gathering was well represented by workers from most shops and locals across the Province. Quite a number of invited guests brought greetings to the delegates such as Larry Hubich-President of the SFL, Hugh Wagner-General Secretary of the Grain and General Services Union (GSU), Mark Crawford-Director of the Unemployed Workers Centre, Janice Bernier-President of the Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees, Sandy Weyland-President Humboldt Labour Council, Alex Furlong-Western Director Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and Mark Gordienko-President International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU-Canada). Upper most in everyone's comments is the assault by conservative right wing governments on community organizations, the poor and unions across Canada and in Saskatchewan.

Executive reports and a detailed financial statement were discussed and then unanimously adopted by all delegates. But this convention was a first for RW and may serve as an example for other unions. Locals were allowed to submit resolutions but deferred instead to having a series of educationals rather than endless debate on statements of principle. One entire afternoon was taken up by Mark Zwelling who is a pollster with a trade union background. His point of discussion and workshop dealt with 'Reviving Labour's Image'. RW activists know full well that employers under the leadership of the Conservative/Sask Parties have spread a lot of crap and outright lies about unions. Mr. Zwelling's presentation flowed quite well into the next morning's session with Darren Miller. A social activist and trade unionist from Vancouver Mr. Miller is dedicated to breaching the divide between what is happening that is important for people to know and the fact that no one seems to be reading newspapers or watching television news anymore. There is no debating that the 'Arab Spring', 'Idle No More' and the 'Occupy' movements last year which drew hundreds of thousands of people into the streets were completely driven by smart phones and I-pads. The challenge for trade unionists is to adopt some of these methods - but how? The Joint Board will be asking all members to provide e-mail addresses. It's a start.

Sharon Cameron the chair of the CLC's 'Union Label' committee also gave a brief presentation on buying Canadian products even when they cost more. Ms. Cameron gave an interesting anecdote that at a recent very high profile sporting event all of the Canadian flags had been made in China. Trade and co-operation between countries must always be fostered but people not corporations bent on profit are the best ambassadors.

Delegates went home with copies of all reports. If you are interested in seeing any of them ask any one of your delegates or call either of the union offices.

Roberta Saint Retires

After 29 years on the job Regina Administrative Assistant Roberta Saint has decided to take an early retirement. Roberta was hired in 1984 as the Joint Board's bookkeeper responsible for all the dues and ledgers kept by the Union and Locals. A while back she moved to the receptionist's desk and anyone who has called the office over the past dozen or so years will have spoken with Roberta.

Roberta's tenure with RWDSU started as a member of Local 540 (FCL Regina), in 1978. She was hired just in time to go on strike that year. She ended up serving a few terms as the Local's recording secretary and was always very active otherwise. She did not miss any local meetings even while raising four children. She will be missed - especially for all of the good baking that made it into the office on Monday mornings.



Canada Safeway Sells All Stores to Sobeys for \$5.8 Billion

The following statement was sent by Safeway President Chuck Mulvenna to all RWDSU Safeways;

“On June 12, 2013, Safeway Inc. announced that it has entered into an agreement to sell the net assets associated with Canada Safeway Limited to Sobeys Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Empire Company Limited. This acquisition is subject to customary conditions, including approval of the Competition Bureau.

Sobeys conducts business through more than 1500 retail stores, corporately owned and franchised, operating across Canada. Sobeys has six major banners, Sobeys, IGA Extra, Thrifty Foods, IGA, Foodland and FreshCo. We are pleased that the combined strengths of Canada Safeway and Sobeys will create a partnership that will strengthen our position in the market and result in more competitive and successful nationwide grocery retailer. Pending regulatory approval, Sobeys is expected to make offers of employment to all non-union employees on substantially similar terms in the aggregate that recognize the prior service of Canada Safeway employees for all purposes. The employment of all union employees will continue with Sobeys in accordance with the terms of each applicable collective agreement.

Sobeys acknowledges and agrees that it will be the successor employer of all union employees and is committed to honoring the obligations of Canada Safeway with regard to each union, including employing all union employees in accordance with the terms of each existing collective agreement. Sobeys will recognize each applicable union as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent of the union employees represented by such union and will bring the necessary applications before applicable labour relations boards regarding the transfer of any certificate or representation with respect to union employees from Canada Safeway to Sobeys.

We are committed to working closely with our industry partners, unions and employees to make the post-closing integration of these businesses as seamless as possible. Our customers will continue to receive the same high quality products and services they have come to expect. We will continue to keep you apprised of any developments as they become available.”

Saskatchewan Federation of Labour – Convention 2012 Highlights

The SFL’s annual convention was held in Regina at the Queensbury Downs from October 31st to Saturday November 3rd. Conventions are held every year alternating between Regina and Saskatoon but elections are only held in the even years and always in Regina. After the very heated and controversial convention of 2010 everyone expected a record turnout for 2012 but that didn’t happen. In fact attendance was down below average for most unions and RWDSU’s numbers were down quite substantially from previous election years.

Nonetheless it was a very busy four days reviewing the work of the SFL Executive and more importantly sharing stories of common adversaries and struggles. The Convention welcomed numerous speakers on a variety of subjects some of which was very depressing, some very entertaining but all of it educational. The keynote speaker on Saturday morning was Sask Party Labour Minister Don Morgan. Delegates were respectful with polite applause and there was no cat-calling or heckling when the Minister finished his remarks. After seeing the Government’s new labour laws in Bill 85 which was tabled on December 4th *The Defender* shares the view of many that he may have gotten off too easy.

There are approximately one hundred thousand unionized workers in Saskatchewan who are affiliated to the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and the SFL. The many Police Unions and the teachers who are represented by the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation are pretty much the only major organizations who are not in the broader labour movement. Finances are generally in good order and the SFL tabled a very comprehensive financial statement showing where all the money was spent. If there is a component of the labour movement that is struggling financial it is the local labour council. There are labour councils in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Weyburn, Yorkton, Humboldt, Prince Albert and North Battleford. Some very large affiliates refuse to join for various reasons. Membership for RW locals in communities that have a council is mandatory. It only makes sense considering the nature of RWDSU. On a side note RW members hold down the presidency of four of Saskatchewan’s eight labour council

If there was a down moment it was at Saturday morning’s elections. Everyone was returned to office except for our own Wanda Bartlett who has served so passionately as SFL’s Recording Secretary over the past few years. *The Defender* knows she is not going to far though and she will remain an activist no matter what. Administrative Coordinator Paul Guillet was re-elected as RW’s vice-president and Secretary Treasurer Garry Burkart was elected RW’s first alternate.

*Join the conversation and get the latest on Saskatchewan's
New Employment Act @ fairwork.ca*

Laundry Services Being Centralized & Privatized.Regina Hospital Laundry Slated to Close

(SFL Press Release)

Working people across the province are asking questions today about the actions of K-Bro, the Alberta corporation that the Ministry of Health recently announced will be awarded a contract to provide laundry services in Saskatchewan. It appears K-Bro has contravened longstanding labour practices, and perhaps the law, by shopping a draft 'contract' directly to unions. The move is a clear attempt to bypass proper negotiations and to deny working people the right to select their own unions.

"We are extremely concerned about K-Bro's recent actions," said SFL President Larry Hubich. "Not only is this corporation trying to circumvent the collective bargaining process and economic democracy, but their so-called 'contract' is absolutely unacceptable. What's worse, the government is turning a blind eye to legitimate questions regarding the tendering process and K-Bro's intentions for Saskatchewan working people."

Evidence shows that K-Bro has been shopping a proposed 'collective agreement' since at least August 2, 2012, weeks before the tendering process to award the laundry contract concluded on August 22, 2012. Northern and rural communities will be particularly hard hit by the privatization measure, with facilities in Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Regina, Yorkton and Weyburn closing in the next two years.

"Money will leave this province to go to an Alberta corporation paying profits to shareholders," said Gordon Campbell, President of CUPE Health Care Council. "The wages that help workers raise their families are being sacrificed for shareholder profit." Campbell is referring to the near-minimum wages that K-Bro pays workers. No doubt due to its poor wages, and according to its annual financial statement, K-Bro has had difficulty in its Alberta facility hiring employees, and "mitigates labour shortages through utilization of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program."

In recent months, SEIU-West has raised a number of concerns about the quality of services the company provides. "K-Bro has provided laundry services to the Saskatoon Health region over the last eighteen months, and our experience has been that laundry has been returned dirty, smelly and damaged," said Barb Cape, President of SEIU-West. "We want to know if these facts were considered when 3sHealth awarded this contract."

The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) has also raised concerns about what the privatization of laundry services will mean for working people in the province. "It's clear that K-Bro's top priority is going to be forcing poverty wages upon the people that work in its facilities," said Garry Burkart, Secretary-Treasurer of RWDSU. "It's also clear that this company is willing to compromise the collective bargaining process in order to do so. At this point, we have more questions about why the government has allowed the process to unfold this way than we have information."

"The government is not being straightforward about this privatization deal with K-Bro," said Hubich. "The goal seems to be ensuring low wages for Saskatchewan working people, and increased profits for an Alberta corporation. Why is the government putting corporate interests ahead of those of the people of the province?"

***UNITED WE STAND. . .
. . . DIVIDED WE FALL***

Local News

- **Sherwood Co-op** members ratified a new four year Agreement at the end of May to expire in September of 2016. The 400 employees of this Regina based retail had been at the bargaining table since last Fall and did take a strike vote before reaching a settlement. Parity with the Saskatoon Co-op was the main focus of talks and this settlement comes within pennies. Saskatoon has always been profitable but Sherwood went through tough times in the 80's and 90's and fell behind. The \$1.00 Sunday premium previously only offered in the food stores is now provided for all employees throughout the Co-op. The night shopping premium went up to \$0.75 cents and that too will be applied in all departments. There were improvements to in-scope/out of scope relief pay, bereavement leave, safety boots and at last Sherwood will pay for all medical certificates. There is a guarantee that rates will always be fifty cents (\$0.50) higher than the minimum wage and some 20 different classifications received adjustments over and above the negotiated settlement. Over the four years start rates will go up by \$1.10 while top of scales will increase by \$2.30 and there is full retroactivity. If there was a downside it is that the Union was unable to get more on the start and intermediate rates.
- **Casino Moose Jaw** employees settled their contract in February. They are not very happy. The Provincial Government's wage mandate is 2%, 1 ½ % and then another 2%. Any improvements to other programs or benefits had to come out of this budget – or the union could sell so called 'efficiencies' for more money. Workers there decided they didn't want to bargain concessions for a few extra pennies. A number of improvements in language were put into the new contract such as training for temporary assignments in other jobs, carry-over of banked time, pay for medical certificates and hopefully a final resolution to nagging problems around stat holidays.
- **Federated Co-operative** employees at the **Melfort Feed Plant** reluctantly accepted what FCL lawyer Tom Fortosky called their 'best offer'. There are only about 10 employees in the plant and there were quite a number of good improvements but wages fell a little short. Shift premiums will be going up to \$1.20 down the road, in-scope relief pay is up to \$10.00 a day and out of scope pay increased to \$15.00 a day. Personal leave with pay is now two days a year and a new higher rated classification of Lead Hand/Shipper & Receiver was created. The new contract is four years long and set to expire in November of 2016. The Casual Labour rate received a few much needed bumps and as did all the start rates which will get a \$1.00 increase in the first two years. For the most part staff will get 3% in years 1 and 2; and 2 ½% in years 3 and 4. FCL Melfort is the best of the small location mills but still miles behind Saskatoon. Of course the subtle threat of closure while not actually talked about is always there just below the surface.
- **Casino Regina** was late starting in their negotiations for a number of reasons but the committee was shocked to hear they had to settle by August or lose retroactivity. Its' not that there will be a lot of retro anyways but everyone – including we suspect a lot of the Management group - wonders where these stupid rules come from. In any event at their last bargaining session the union committee advised Management that to save time and get a settlement by the phony deadline they would not be talking about the Casino's proposals anymore.
- Patience is wearing thin for workers at **Evrax Place** in Regina. They have been at the bargaining table for more than two (2) years now and are still miles away from a satisfactory Agreement. Things are looking up for the old Regina Exhibition Park with the recent announcement of a new CFL football stadium being built there and they have been able to attract prestigious events such as the Canadian Juno awards. However, when it comes to the bargaining table they are pleading poverty. A strike vote was taken and notice was served but Minister of Labour Don Morgan came to the employers' rescue. In the hours before the Juno music awards were to start he appointed a special mediator and quashed the union's right to strike. As we go to press the company and the union have met eight times with mediator Richard Hornung and a report is anxiously awaited. On a side note the Defender thanks the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) for their support. The Union didn't ask them to but SUN moved its' annual convention which was to be held at Evraz.
- Representative Hollyoak is chairing the Evraz talks but reports other tables are on the go as well. **Temple Gardens Mineral Spa, Signal Industries** and the **Conexus Arts Centre** are in bargaining. Conexus talks should be more interesting than usual. Last year the Centre received \$446,000 in grants from the provincial government but this year that was cut to \$223,000. Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport Kevin Doherty has said he wants to get rid of the grants altogether. The Centre sponsors many cultural and arts events that do not always make a lot of money but are none the less very important for the citizens of Regina and the whole southern region of the province. It would certainly be a shame it narrow minded, political accountants in the Sask Party were to damage this important institution.
- The **Cafeteria Board** which operates restaurants on the grounds of the provincial legislature have finally settled a new Agreement. Representative Olynick reports there is a 6% wage increase with full retroactivity back to October 1, 2012 and then a further 1% to come into effect October 1, 2013, and EDOs can now be banked to use at the Christmas break. Unfortunately two of the Board's locations have now closed – the Prairie Lily and Prairie Grouse cafeterias.
- After taking a strike vote **Weyburn Co-op** employees managed to get a four year Agreement they can live with. There were quite a number of improvements including to out of scope relief pay, scheduling issues, sick leave and pay for contract negotiations. In the area of wages; year #1 - \$.50 across the board, year #2 – 2½ % prorated down, year #3 – 2½ % prorated down and year #4 – 3% prorated down. There was also a \$225 signing bonus for full time employees and a prorated amount for part timers.
- Notice to bargain has been served on **Southern Plains Co-op** (Estevan and Oxbow), **Yorkton Co-op** and **Young Co-op**. **Wynyard Co-op** talks are scheduled to resume June 18th and **Pioneer Co-op** negotiations are on again for two days June 24th and 25th. So far there have been five full days at this very wealthy retail in south western Saskatchewan.

LOCAL NEWS

- The members of the **Beeland Co-op** in Tisdale settled their contract that included a series of market adjustments for petroleum drivers and meat cutters. Tisdale employees agreed to a four year contract with an average of 3% in each year. And just down the highway from Tisdale a four year contract was also concluded at the **Prairie North Co-op** in Melfort. Market supplements were put in place for mechanics and petroleum drivers and \$0.40 cent adjustments were given to bakery/deli workers, gas bar clerks, cleaners and cooks. Years 1, 2 and 3 employees will receive \$0.45 an hour each year and in year #4 - \$0.50. Members at both retails were generally pleased with their new Agreements.
- **Canadian Linen** employees in Saskatoon bargained a three year contract at 3% a year with drivers getting an additional 6% market supplement. Quite a number of good improvements are also part of the deal and *The Defender* would like to report staff there are happy if it were not for the fact the company turned around and fired two of the union's bargaining committee members. Representative Luchsinger says he expects these dismissals will be dealt with quickly and someone in Management will be in trouble for this stupid decision.
- **AlSCO Linen** in Saskatoon hammered together a deal in fairly short order that sets out a new three year contract at 3% a year. Drivers will get a little extra bump through improved commissions. The new Agreement also contains very good improvements and gains in general terms.
- The news is not so good for employees of **Canada Bread** in Saskatoon. The company has permanently closed its 3rd Avenue location and three employees are losing their jobs. The company did offer an enhanced severance package and it is now left with just one location in Confederation Park. Canada Bread is all that remains of the old **McGavin's Foods** company that once supplied fresh baking for the province and employed hundreds of RW workers and sales drivers throughout Saskatchewan.
- Employees of **Morris Industries** in Yorkton have just settled a three year contract that will hopefully retain those workers who have very marketable skills these days. It took the threat of an 81% strike vote but the parties agreed to general increases of 5%, 3½% and 3½% over the three years. But it was the inclusion of a new retention incentive program that sealed the deal. Employees with three years of service will get an extra \$0.50 cents an hour over and above the general increases. Employees with five years' service will get \$0.80 cents an hour and those who have completed ten years of service will get \$1.00 an hour more. To top it off there will be a ½% bump in contributions to the pension plan.
- 3%, 2½%, 2 ½% and 3% wage increases is the basis for a new four year Agreement hammered out at the **Kindersley Co-op** late last year. All vacancies and entry level jobs will now be posted and time for union rep visits with staff has been improved from five to fifteen minutes. The Co-op also agreed to formalize and improve its uniform policies to provide all cold weather clothing required by C-Store staff and set amounts of pants and shirts for all staff. Replacement uniforms will be supplied when needed at no cost.
- Also settled in December of 2012 was the Agreement at the **Battlefords and District Co-op**. The term and percentage increases are the same as noted above for the Kindersley Co-op but quite a number of other changes made for a good all round deal. A significant improvement is the transfer of seniority for students for the purposes of pay rates when they are no longer students. Union representation is now guaranteed for meetings with Management that could lead to discipline as well as increasing time for union rep visits from five to fifteen minutes and leaves of absence for negotiations is increased from three members to five. Bereavement leave was expanded to include mother-in-law/father-in-law, personal paid leave is now up to two days a year and grandparents and grandchildren now qualify as reasons for paid compassionate leave. Out of scope relief pay goes from \$16.00 to \$18.00 a day and workers in the Battlefords have decided to rotate among themselves all of the scheduling issues around statutory holidays.
- RW's largest retail co-op settled its contract in January. The **Prince Albert Co-op** settled a four year deal with 2½%, 3%, 2½% and 3% over the term. Full time staff also received a \$200.00 signing bonus, part timers got \$100.00 and students received \$50.00. Other improvements; shop stewards are now permitted to meet employees alone for ten minutes before meetings with Management and collective bargaining and other joint union management meetings will not be charged to the Union's allotted days for union time off. Premium pay went up to \$0.75 cents an hour, temporary assignment of higher duties will now be offered on the basis of seniority, paid sick leave for caring for close dependents up to sixteen paid hours a year, safety shoe/boot allowance has been loosened up and petroleum drivers who bank overtime will now take time off at time and half (1½). Workers in P.A. have also agreed to rotate weekends and long weekends within the full time and part time groups respectively.