

TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA:

These are the reasons for this petition:

1. Manitobans have benefited greatly from a fair and balanced approach to labour relations that has led to a long period of labour peace in the province.
2. Under current legislation, if 65 per cent of workers in a workplace vote to join a union by signing a union card, then a union can qualify to become automatically certified as the official bargaining agent for the workers.
3. These signed union cards are submitted to the Labour Board and an independent review by the Labour Board is held to ensure that the law has been followed.
4. The provincial threshold to achieve automatic certification of a union is the highest in the country, and at 65 per cent, the democratic will and decision of workers to vote and join the union is absolutely clear.
5. During the recent provincial election, the leader of the Progressive Conservative party announced without any consultation that it was his intention to change this fair and balanced legislation by requiring a second vote conducted on a matter where the democratic will of workers has already been expressed.
6. This plan opens up the process to potential employer interference and takes the same misguided approach as the federal Conservatives under the Harper administration took in Bill C-525 which was nothing more than a solution looking for a problem.
7. The recent introduction of Bill 7 by the Provincial Government confirmed this possibility by removing automatic certification and the safeguards in the Labour Relations Act to protect workers from employer intimidation during the certification process.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge that the Provincial Government maintain the current legislation for union certification which reflects balance and fairness, rather than adopting the intention to make it harder for workers to organize.

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