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September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

**Regina** – Labour Day began as a protest – 10,000 workers marching in solidarity with the striking Toronto Topographical Union. For over 150 years, Canada’s labour movement has been fighting for safer, fairer work. The labour movement helped to define the middle class we have today.

This labour day, we celebrate workers across this great province. These are people who build our communities, deliver essential services, deliver power and energy across this province, and keep our economy moving. It is a day when we all recognize the accomplishments of the labour movement in advocating for working people.

It is time for working people to come together and put forward big, bold ideas about the society they want to live in, the society we wish to leave for future generations. We must not be constrained by goals that may seem far fetched or distant – such as equity and equity for all, a new-green economy, retirement security or universal pharmacare! These are the very ideas that we must tackle, that we must advocate for as those before us advocated for better health and safety regulations, the ending of child labour and a defined work week.

Positive change can not start unless we all get involved with working towards a common goal and solution. Whether that is working with your union or by working towards electing governments that will listen to voters, promote equity for all and foster an economy that leaves no one behind.

We’ve come a long way since the Toronto printer’s strike; the challenges change but the necessity to continue to have a strong voice to ensure workers’ rights are protected remain an integral part of our society. Workers have the right to be respected in the workplace regardless of their occupation. Every worker deserves to be paid a family-sustaining wage, get access to benefits and a pension, and go home safely at the end of the day.

On behalf of Unifor Local 649, this Labour Day I want to thank the 1400 workers that belong to our bargaining units at SaskEnergy, SaskPower and TSASK, for the work they do, to ensure that

Saskatchewan residents can keep their homes heated and their lights on, knowing that the work has been safely conducted.

Behind all the smiles that ensure your safety on a day-to-day basis, are hardworking Canadians that we celebrate this Labour Day.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trevor Davies".

T.J. (Trevor) Davies, CD, PSGov  
*Unifor Local 649 President*  
*Unifor Energy Council – Vice Chair*