



Scott Lunny Director
District 3 Western Canada and Territories

May 9, 2023

To: Saskatchewan Local Union Leadership

Cc: USW District 3 staff

From: Scott Lunny, Director

Re: Saskatchewan Steelworker Lobby

You may have heard that last week, NDP leader [Carla Beck was kicked out of the Legislature for standing up for Steelworkers](#). I was there, one of two dozen USW members attending Question Period.

As many of you know, last week United Steelworkers from across Saskatchewan were lobbying our Members of the Legislature on issues that impact all our members in the province. Issues like paid sick days, mental health in the workplace, stopping privatization and investing in our public services, and of course, how we protect and grow good-paying union jobs. These are the issues that were identified as important by all of you in our March Leadership meeting.

It was a non-partisan lobby; we were meeting members of both the governing Saskatchewan Party as well as Official Opposition Leader, Carla Beck and MLAs in the New Democrat caucus. For members at Evraz and Wasco, Locals 5890 and 5917, we were promoting the product we make and looking for political support at a time when hundreds of USW 5890 members are laid-off: a workforce of 600 on the tubular line, down to only 30. While members who work at the adjacent Evraz/Wasco (pipe protection coating) have been reduced from 160 members down to just 7.

When asked a direct question about supporting our members, [Minister Jeremy Harrison tried to respond with cheap shots, and couldn't even be bothered to acknowledge our members](#), let alone say his government cared. Carla Beck called it out and was kicked out of the Legislature for it.

It was clear who was standing up for Steelworkers. It was NDP leader Carla Beck and the MLAs in her caucus. They listened and understood that we should be building public infrastructure with local people and local products. They know we should promote the fact that we can manufacture premium steel products, from recycled steel, with industry-leading standards in low carbon emissions and low water use.

We also met with a handful of Saskatchewan Party MLAs. They offered no commitments and rejected the idea of local procurement policies and ensuring taxpayer dollars on

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

300-3920 Norland Avenue, Burnaby, British Columbia V5G 4K7 • 604-683-1117 • 604-688-6416 (Fax)

usw.ca/district3 district3@usw.ca [uswdistrict3](https://twitter.com/uswdistrict3)

<sru-sdr; cope-sepb 343>

public projects stay in Saskatchewan. Ironically, they're worried about a fight on federal trade policy.

As the largest industrial union in North America, we work with employers and governments of all stripes to secure a better future for our members. We know Saskatchewan can be leaders in critical minerals and manufacturing. Instead over the last four years it has the second worst economic growth of any Canadian province. Maybe it's time to take us up on some of our ideas.

As Carla said, she "[will never apologize for standing up for good-paying jobs,](#)" and neither will we.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Scott Lunny
Director

SL/JU/ja
<cope343>

cc: Mike Duhra, Assistant to the Director
Darrin Kruger, Area Coordinator
Patrick Veinot, Staff Representative
George Soule, Legislative Staff Representative
Patrick Rodrigues, Research Staff Representative
Brett Barden, Communications and Political Action