

UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF APPLICATIONS TO THE LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD

One of the first priorities of the Saskatchewan Party government was to replace the members of the Labour Relations Board. In January of 2008, the Labour Relations Board members were terminated and replaced with a new Board Chair, Ken Love. CUPE found this problematic for a number of reasons – it caused a delay in hearings, we were concerned about who would write decisions of cases that had already been heard by the Board, not to mention whether those decisions would be valid, or if we would need to have cases re-heard by the new Board which would cause additional delays. Once we received our first decision from Mr. Love, we knew we would have a lot of work in store for us. (Education Workers Steering Committee Staff Advisor Report, Annual Conference November 4-5, 2008)

As a result of the LRB Horizon School Division decision many CUPE education locals are now anxiously waiting for the judgment of the judicial review regarding Local 5506 LRB decision.

Listed below is the status of six other similar applications to the LRB that have been held in abeyance until CUPE receives the decision of Local 5506 judicial review.

Sun West

The Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board has ordered a vote for all employees unionized or not. CUPE has requested this vote through an application to the LRB. Our application was successful. CUPE has now applied for access to the employees so that we can contact them.

Prairie Valley

An application for an all employee Bargaining Unit was made. This application has been adjourned at our request to await the outcome of the Prairie South court case.

NE School – 250/250

An application for an all employees Bargaining Unit was made. This application was made as a joint application with the employer. Although the application was made by agreement, there has been no decision to date by the Labour Relations Board. This continues to be an active application with no resolution in sight.

Horizon – 300/100

An application for an all employee Bargaining Unit was applied for and CUPE requested a vote. This was one of the four options set out in the Labour Relations Board decision. The matter has been referred back to the LRB as the union seeks clarification

Chinook

There are no current applications from CUPE in this school division. There have been reports of some aggressive tactics from another union which is organizing in this area.

Good Spirit

An application for an all employee Bargaining Unit has been made. This application has been adjourned while we await the outcome of the Prairie South judicial review process

Prairie Spirit

An application for an all employee Bargaining Unit has been made. This application has been adjourned while we await the outcome of the Prairie South judicial review process.

Prairie South – 400/100

An application for an all employees Bargaining Unit was made. Our application was denied when the LRB determined that it had the authority to select the option on behalf of the union. We have made a Judicial Review application which will be heard mid February.