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Releases

Supreme Court affirms workers' right to strike in collective bargaining

VANCOUVER - The BC Federation of Labour welcomes today's ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada that acknowledges the right to strike as an essential part of meaningful collective bargaining.

"No one enters into strike action lightly, it is always a last resort. In fact, the vast majority of contracts in BC and in Canada are settled without work stoppage," said BCFED President Irene Lanzinger.

"But taking strike action is sometimes necessary, and the right of workers to use that tool has been upheld today."

Today`s decision determined that the Saskatchewan Party government's Public Service Essential Services Act (PSESA) violates the freedom of association protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The case was brought forward by the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and its affiliates.

"This decision places important checks on the power of government, helping establish a level playing field in collective bargaining," said Lanzinger.

Lanzinger noted that nothing will change with this decision. "The labour movement will continue to protect the health and safety of the public during disputes."

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