

Premier Kenney: Now more than ever, Alberta's economy needs us. Why pick a fight with us now?

At their recent annual general meeting, the UCP passed an unprecedented anti-worker policy that proposes to make Alberta the first USA-style "Right-to-Work" province in Canada. With this new policy plank, Premier Kenney and the UCP are treading on very dangerous ground. We can't allow them to turn this policy into law.

A Right-to-Work (RTW) law in Alberta would handcuff unions' ability to properly bargain for workers' interests, would gut training and thus reduce skill levels and workplace safety, and would hamper their efforts to protect their members from unfair management practices. In the long run, unions would dwindle — along with the wages and living standards of all workers in the province, both union and non-union.

Those American states that have such laws have proven their devastating effects on the standard of living of working people:

- Wages are more than three percent lower, on average, than in non-RTW states; in some RTW states, they are much lower
- Workers are less likely to have the option to join any union at all, and unions are generally weaker and more ineffective against much more powerful employers
- Workers are less likely to enjoy employer-sponsored pensions or benefit plans
- Workplace safety suffers because workers are unable to fight for it
- Union-funded training weakens, leading to under-skilled, lower paid workers

- Highly skilled, but underpaid, workers are tempted to relocate to jurisdictions where they can earn their worth

Besides the calamitous effects that RTW law would wreak on our economy and our livelihoods, the truth is that, in all likelihood, any RTW legislation attempted by the UCP would be struck down by the Supreme Court. The UCP would force taxpayers to foot the bill for a lengthy and costly legal fight that will ultimately fail.

We are Alberta's Boilermakers — a team of highly skilled, reliable and productive tradespeople that includes welders, riggers, fitters, and apprentices who build and maintain our province's large-scale industrial infrastructure, including our energy sector.

We have praised the Kenney government when they have deserved it. We've supported their commitment to develop our energy sector to its fullest potential. We lauded them when they invested in innovative carbon capture, utilization and storage technology to greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions for a cleaner planet.

But we must speak up when they turn to union-busting.

As our economy strives to recover from the crippling effects of COVID-19 and the collapse of oil prices, why choose now to pick a fight with Alberta's workers?

We have enough challenges to meet on the road to recovery. Why does the UCP want to sow discord between our workers and their employers?

Now, more than ever, we should be seeking common ground and pulling together to build Alberta up.

**Contact your MLA and tell him/her to reject
the UCP's dangerous Right-to-Work policy!**

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF BOILERMAKERS**

