

The Northern Exemption Review

A report on public consultations into a *Labour Standards Act* regulation affecting Saskatchewan workplaces north of Township 62.

The Regulation, sections 7(1) and 7(2) (d), exempts certain workplaces from Section 6 (Hours of Work and Overtime Pay) and Section 12 (Right to Refuse Overtime) of The Labour Standards Act.

*Submitted by
Ron Harper
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Regina Northeast*

February 2007

Letter of Transmittal



February 2007

To the Honourable Lorne Calvert
Premier of Saskatchewan

I'm pleased to submit my report on my public consultations into the Saskatchewan *Labour Standards Act* Northern Overtime Exemption regulation.

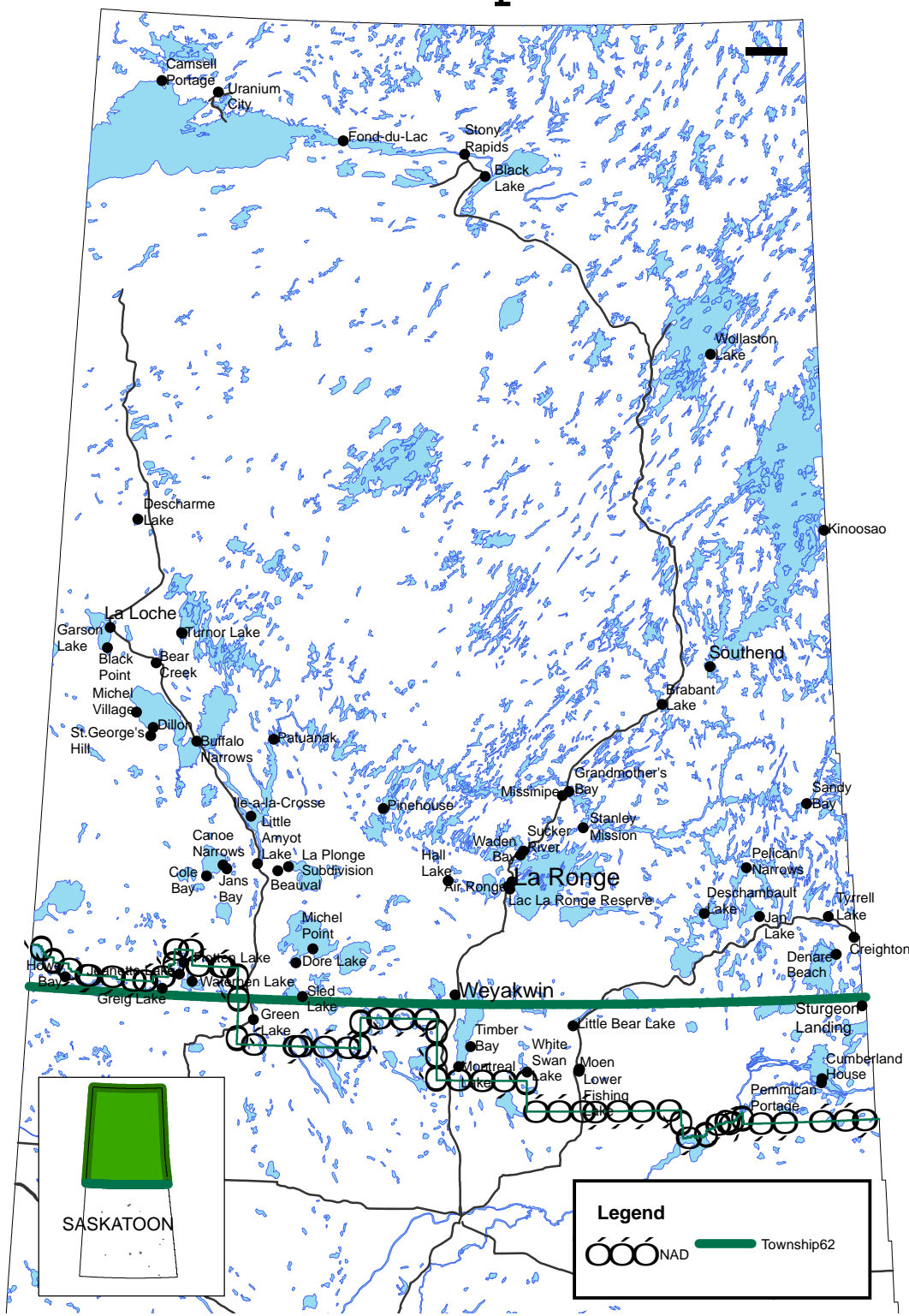
In my report, I've gathered together the opinions of numerous individuals, organizations and businesses. The consultations elicited a range of viewpoints which I have taken into consideration in formulating my observations and recommendations.

Thank you for this opportunity to travel Saskatchewan, especially our northern communities, and hear many views on this important labour standards issue.

Respectfully submitted

Ron Harper, MLA
Regina Northeast

Northern Exemption Area



Acknowledgements

Many resources are called on to fulfill the task of conducting public consultations on an issue. The talented people who work in support of a consultation exercise do so largely unseen by the general public who participate.

Assisting me with the Northern Overtime Exemption Review (the Review) was a most capable team of officials – brought together for this task by Saskatchewan Labour ADM Jim Nicol – who work at the Departments of Industry and Resources, Labour, and Northern Affairs.

This expert team provided background information, logistical support, sound advice and encouragement at every stage of the Review. Without their assistance, this Review would not have been possible.

With the exception of my fly-in visits to the communities of Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac, Uranium City, Black Lake First Nation, as well as Wollaston Lake and Points North en route to AREVA Resources' mine at MacLean Lake, the Northern Overtime Exemption Review consultations involved travel by road across northern Saskatchewan. In every community, we were welcomed by the residents who offered their views, always with passion and insight, on the Northern Overtime Exemption.

Much credit for the warm reception I received everywhere must go to Willie Billette with the Department of Northern Affairs office in La Ronge. Willie accompanied the Review as we travelled around northern Saskatchewan. His presence brought me into contact with many people, including northern leaders, who came forward to share their thoughts.

On our visit to the Lake Athabasca communities we were joined by Rusty Gardiner, Northern Affairs' manager for Athabasca. His knowledge of economic activity in the Athabasca Basin helped us to better understand the North.

From the outset Norm Bright assisted me. His perspectives, research and writing talents, and lengthy experience and interest in public affairs, helped me finalize this report.

Ron Harper, MLA
Regina Northeast

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Map of Northern Exemption Area

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