LEGISLATIVE BUILDING REGINA, CANADA S4S 0B3

June 22, 2011

Bob Bymoen, President Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union (SGEU) 1440 Broadway Avenue REGINA SK S4P 1E2

Dear Mr. Bymoen:

Your decision to launch strike action against the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation at this moment – in the midst of an unprecedented flood crisis in many areas of Saskatchewan – is nothing short of appalling.

In recent days, I have witnessed the extraordinary efforts of hundreds of Saskatchewan people to help those affected by the flooding. Their energy and compassion for those in need is truly inspiring. I have often said that in the worst situations, we see the best of Saskatchewan people. This is one of those times.

That's why your decision to launch strike action now is so deplorable. Many farmers will seed little or no crop this year as a result of the massive flooding. They are relying on the Crop Insurance coverage they purchased to see them through this difficult time.

Crop Insurance employees have a chance to be part of the solution by ensuring that producers hit by this year's flooding have their claims processed and receive their Crop Insurance payments in a timely manner. Instead, your decision to strike only adds to the problem.

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At a time when so many others are doing so much to help, your decision to withdraw this vital service from those who need it is simply unconscionable.

Already, we are hearing from Crop Insurance employees who do not support the decision to strike at this time. They want to be helping their clients – their friends and neighbours – by ensuring their Crop Insurance claims and payments are processed as quickly as possible.

Today, Mr. Bymoen, you can fix this. Call off this strike – at least until all claims for unseeded and flooded out acres are processed. During that time, the management of Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation will continue to bargain in good faith and work to reach a negotiated contract settlement.

Our government has a duty to help those affected by this year's flooding. This includes ensuring that we live up to our obligation to provide Crop Insurance services and coverage at this time. Therefore, if I do not receive your assurance that this strike will end within 24 hours, action will be taken to protect the interests of the province and of flood victims.

I look forward to your response.

Brad Wall Premier

