

October 15, 2013

Honourable Jason Kenney
Minister of Employment and Social Development,
Minister for Multiculturalism, and MP for Calgary Southeast
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
E-mail: jason.kenney@parl.gc.ca

Original copy to follow in the mail.

Dear Honourable Jason Kenney,

Re: Call for Investigation into Allegations that TFWS are displacing Canadians at Husky-Sunrise

On behalf of the Alberta Federation of Labour and the more than 160,000 unionized workers we represent, I am writing to ask you to investigate allegations that about 300 workers at the Husky Sunrise project north of Fort McMurray have been displaced by workers brought into the country under the federal government's Temporary Foreign Worker program.

Starting about three weeks ago, our Federation started receiving calls from concerned employees of a company called Black and MacDonald. According to the workers, a decision was made to not renew their company's contract (which was set to expire). Instead, Black and Mac's work would be taken up by the general contractor for the site, a company called Saipem, which is a foreign-controlled, non-union firm known to make extensive use of the Temporary Foreign Worker program.

The workers who contacted our office said there was clearly more work that could have been done by their company and they were disappointed and frustrated that they wouldn't get a chance to do that work.

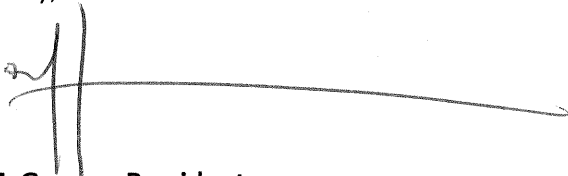
To add to our concerns, just this afternoon, we learned that a second group of workers, employees of a construction firm called CIMS, had hoisted a protest banner on the Sunrise site reading "Proud Canadian Union Workers Being Laid Off to Make Way for TFWs."

CIMS is a smaller contractor than Black and MacDonald and their contract is set to expire in December. The CIMS workers are raising similar concerns as the Black and Mac workers. Specifically, they say that there is clearly more work on the site that could be done by their company, but that the work will, as was the case with Black and MacDonald, be done by Saipem once CIMS's contract expires.

I acknowledge that many of the facts related to the situation at Husky Sunrise are in dispute. But we at the AFL feel the allegations are serious enough that they warrant a thorough and transparent investigation. The workers involved – and Canadians at large – deserve to know whether or not Canadians are being displaced by workers brought into the country under your government's Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

In conclusion, I would like to remind you that, on April 29 of this year, you promised Canadians that you would ensure that no Canadian workers would be displaced by the Temporary Foreign Work program. I am asking for you to live up to that promise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left and a long horizontal line extending to the right, ending in a small arrowhead.

**Gil McGowan, President
Alberta Federation of Labour**

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