



Farmers and Ranchers Group Insurance Plan

Did you know that the Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance plan is the Number #1 Plan for small business in the country? Not only do we have plans for small and medium sized businesses but a Farmers and Ranchers plan designed specifically with the agricultural sector in mind. The Chambers plan offers extended health and disability coverage, critical illness, accidental death, dental care, term life insurance and we are proud to say a Best Doctors offering. An insurance plan is a tremendous benefit for your employees and their families and adds to employee satisfaction and retention. Please contact us for information or go to www.buychambers.ca for a free quote.

Best in Business Promotion

The Brooks & District Chamber of Commerce is asking you to vote for your favourites by completing the entry form for the Best in Business for 2011. It's a fun and easy way to honour those people and businesses that go the extra mile. You can win prizes too! Visit www.brookschamber.ab.ca to enter your picks! The entry deadline is August 12, 2011.

Shop Local Campaign

Shop Local and win! The Brooks & District Chamber of Commerce and the City of Brooks have teamed up to encourage you to Shop Locally! To enter the Yes We shop in Brooks contest all you have to do is save your receipts, complete an application form and enter to win monthly prizes. You'll also be entered to win a grand prize in January 2012. Shop Local dollars can also be purchased from the Chamber for face value and redeemed at most all local businesses so the next time you are looking for that perfect gift support your local economy and buy shop local dollars! See www.brookschamer.ab.ca for contest details.



Farmers & Ranchers Insurance Plan

Affordable, Comprehensive & Tailored

The Brooks & District Chamber of Commerce has an affordable & comprehensive insurance plan that can be tailored for your needs.

For more information contact:

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Did you know the Alberta Chambers of Commerce currently has 6 agricultural policies for which we are continually advocating? Visit our website for more information.

SEIU takes exception to comments

Editor:

Gloria Illerbrun, executive director of health services, makes comment in the June 30 edition of the *Prairie Post* that the movement of nursing staff between November 7, 2010, and May 31, 2011 in five of the long-term care facilities in the Cypress Health Region "wasn't anything out of the ordinary." In my view, this certainly does not convey any real concern about current and ongoing staffing deficiencies in these areas.

What she does not indicate is that Cypress Health Region, since early 2011, has undertaken the Palliser POW focus staff survey, a provincial Employee Engagement survey and more recently the CREW (Civility, Respect and Engagement at Work) initiative within Cypress Health Region. The common objective communicated to our members is that the employer wanted to allow employees meaningful input towards improving their workplace. Really?

I wonder why the health region would spend finite health dollars to conduct surveys with no real intent to employ improvements based upon the results.

I also note Ms. Illerbrun takes immediate opportunity to discount publicly all of the data collected, the research offered and the personal submissions put forward on behalf of SEIU-West members, with clear unanimous support from all of our members who are employed in these facilities.

It makes me wonder: Has she ever worked in a critical shortage of staff situation and on an ongoing basis? Has she had the personal first-hand experience of having to tell a resident that he or she cannot have his or her one bath this week — it must now wait until next week? Does she understand

our residents require timely, attentive compassionate care every day — a challenge which cannot be met when we frequently do not have full staffing. I am a special care aide. I think it is sad when the quality of life of long-term care residents is balanced against saving budget dollars. Don't you?

During our presentation on May 26, SEIU-West provided data to the health region with respect to the departures of staff employed as special care aide and licensed practical nurse at Palliser Regional Care Centre. Given the little time we were offered on the agenda, we did not put forward the data from the other four facilities; nor did we indicate the number of employees who have transferred to part-time or casual employment (from full-time) or those who have moved to job shares since the forced shift changes by the employer. We did not mention the marked increase in the recruitment of untrained care aides nor did we identify the ongoing expectation to work 16 hours consistent due to constant overtime demands. However, I am not certain whether Ms. Illerbrun would understand these issues as anything out of the ordinary either. These are all the frenzied actions of an employer grasping at whatever they can to replace staff — staff who have left because of Cypress Health Region's own misguided policies and decisions.

Now may well be a good time for the family members of our residents to speak up and let Ms. Illerbrun and the Cypress Health Region know the needs of the residents should come first. You cannot provide care without care providers. Perhaps she will consider what you have to offer.

**Shelly Banks, Vice-President,
SEIU-West, Saskatchewan**

Lying in advertising is an attack ad

Editor:

During the federal election, I had commented on the difference of an attack advertisement and a factual statement.

The main difference is that one is the truth. Case in point, Mr. Michael Ignatieff did spend the majority of his life in the United States, so the ads were true, not attack ads.

You see, the truth is a rarity in politics. Just this past weekend, an intelligent friend of mine made the comment she would just once like to hear the truth. My response, "that's a pipe dream."

This past week, we got a prime example of the degree of corruption and dishonesty some of these people

will go to. Of course, I refer to the NDP tactic of splicing material to get their message out. They even admitted to the deed, but were not big enough to even pull the outright lying ad, which in my opinion is to their detriment.

Why? because not many people in this great province would ever believe the best premier we have had in years would ever say things like the NDP party ad says.

The leader of the NDP should be ashamed, and go back to Calgary, because, as I said about not needing an American prime minister, do we need an Albertan premier? Lying about the best premier in Canada is simply unacceptable.

Steve MacInnis, Morse, Sask.

Socialist organizations can govern

Editor:

After reading Dale Ferrel's right-wing comments for awhile, I have felt it is finally time to comment myself.

His comment in the July 22 *Prairie Post* which said, "to the best of my knowledge no socialist organization has successfully governed anything" is funny.

The Tommy Douglas government "successfully" governed

Saskatchewan, giving us the birthplace of universal health care.

The Romanow government gave us balanced budgets after years of Devine right-wing spending that almost bankrupted our great province.

As for the belief of a narrow mind, I believe Ferrel should look in his own backyard.

Shaynee Modien, Swift Current

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