

Brian Pallister's Conservatives Launch Attack on Rights of Manitoba Workers and Unions

An Open Letter to Working Families in Manitoba



As Manitobans who have served as labour ministers, we are compelled to issue a call to action.

Brian Pallister has launched a full attack on unions, working families and workplace rights.

The Conservative leader laid out his plan to break unions and strip Manitoba workers of their rights in a March 31, 2016 statement on the Pallister Conservatives' website.

Pallister couldn't be clearer. Attacking how unions are organized, including union dues, is opening assault on a basic concept of workplace fairness, upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada for 70 years, where everyone pitches in because everyone benefits. Not only that—he is attacking the Canadian Charter of Rights, which promotes the freedom to associate and which was upheld in the Supreme Court of Canada specifically as the right to join unions.

We've been down this road before. Pallister was a senior minister in the Filmon government that systematically rolled back the rights of workers and unions.

Sound familiar? It's what the Harper Conservatives tried to do, too. This shouldn't be surprising, since Brian Pallister was a Harper Conservative from 2004 to 2008.

He has never supported workplace health and safety and has no positive proposals to improve workplace relations – his positions will increase conflict and harm workplace conditions for working families.

Brian Pallister has learned well from Harper. He is ready to make life easier for large corporations by eliminating the rights of their employees and undermining opportunities for working families.

Make no mistake, Pallister will try to turn Manitoba into a low-wage, right-to-work province. We're asking Manitoba's union members and all working families to now stand with us to ensure our worker-friendly government moves Manitoba forward, because all workers matter.

On April 19th, there is just too much at stake. Organize, mobilize and let's get out the vote for NDP candidates throughout Manitoba!

In solidarity,


Erna Braun


Nancy Allan


Jennifer Howard


Becky Barrett