

Grande Cache puts local MP on notice



More than 50 members of the Grande Cache local attended a town hall meeting hosted by local Conservative MP Rob Merrifield in his Yellowhead riding March 11 to ask several pointed questions about the Harper government's attacks on the working men and women of UCCO-SACC-CSN.

Prairie Regional President James Bloomfield challenged the government on the passing of Bill C-4 and the change of the definition of danger contained in this omnibus budget bill. We also posed questions about why this government is targeting unions for unconstitutional attacks in Bills C-377 and C-525. We expressed our extreme disappointment with the Harper government's complete disregard for public servants and the misinformation given about the value of the services we provide.



Prairie regional president James Bloomfield asks Conservative MP Rob Merrifield about his government's anti-union policies

At one point Mr. Merrifield claimed the party line about how public servants take an average of 18.26 sick days a year. He was very quickly corrected on this misinformation and was referred to the recent report released by the Parliamentary Budget Office. The PBO calculates that we take an average of 11 days a year, which is very similar to the rate of sick leave in the private sector.

The MP had no real substance to his responses and continually tried to put us off by suggesting we write a letter and that he would get back to us. Clearly, this member has no understanding of the realities we face in our work and the hardships his government is creating for our members.

We also asked how the legislative changes he was voting for benefited his constituents. He had no satisfactory answers to any of the questions we raised. We let him know that we aren't happy with this government and that the time to hold them to account is quickly approaching.

This is the first of many encounters the Harper Conservatives can expect between now and October of 2015. We are going to be there every step of the way to challenge them on their attacks on all of our members. We will stand together and we will not back down!

Great work Grande Cache