



SASKATCHEWAN
Federation of Labour

BOYCOTT AND HOT CARGO DECLARATION

A boycott is a request to refuse to buy or use products or services of a certain company. A hot declaration goes much further.

A boycott is a very serious and major offensive and should not be undertaken lightly. It should be well organized, with a solid chance of success. It is a subtle and complex operation which requires much thought and serious commitment.

Guidelines by Which the Executive Council of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour Will Consider Endorsing Consumer Boycotts

1. The Executive Council of the SFL shall consider a request to endorse a consumer boycott upon application signed by a ranking officer of an affiliated organization.
2. Each organization requesting Executive Council endorsement of a boycott shall complete in advance a report, to be kept confidential if requested, providing information necessary to carry out an effective boycott and a list of other affiliates who would be affected.
3. Immediately upon receipt of the boycott request, the SFL President shall notify the Strike Strategy Committee. The Committee shall meet within 14 days to consider the request and make a recommendation to the Executive Council for decision. Such recommendation shall indicate the other affiliates known to be affected by such a boycott, consultation engaged in with these affiliates, and the position these affiliates have taken on the boycott request.
4. Following notification of the Strike Strategy Committee, the SFL President shall notify the Executive Council and Senior Staff representatives of all affiliates of the boycott request, the date the Strike Strategy Committee will be meeting to consider the issue, and the date set for an Executive Council meeting to consider the recommendation of the Strike Strategy Committee. Such a meeting of the Executive shall occur no more than 30 days after receipt of the request for a boycott.
5. At both the Strike Strategy Committee and Executive Council meetings called to discuss the boycott request, affiliates affected by the boycott shall be given an opportunity to state their support or objections to the boycott before Executive action is taken.

The Executive Council shall consider the information provided and the trade union issues involved in determining whether the Council shall endorse the boycott.

6. A boycott will be endorsed provided that:
 - a) there is consent of all affiliates directly affected, who hold certification with the same employer, and
 - b) that approval is given by majority vote of the Executive Council.
7. The decision of the Executive Council regarding endorsement of a request for a boycott shall be taken by a recorded vote.
8. The organization initiating the request will be primarily responsible for boycott activities, with the SFL supplying supplemental support. The organization shall designate at least one person to serve as the "Boycott Co-ordinator," and the SFL will, in turn, designate a coordinator.
9. Where the Executive Council has endorsed the boycott, announcements or publicity on the decision shall be released only after consultation with the affected organization.
10. The SFL shall maintain and publicize a list of active boycotts of identifiable goods and services.
11. The initiating organization shall cooperate fully in providing information to the Federation coordinator for the purpose of reporting to the Executive Council.
12. Coordinators shall provide reports to the Executive Council on the status of each endorsed boycott and activity conducted at regular meetings of the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall review its endorsement on a quarterly basis.
13. Where a boycott is judged by the Executive Council to be inactive, but the affected organization requests continuation, the union will have the opportunity to state its position to the Executive Council, and the final decision on continuing or terminating the boycott shall be made by the Executive Council.
14. No listing (referred to in Item 10) shall be continued beyond one year unless specifically requested by the organization and agreed to by the Council.

Hot Cargo Declaration

A Hot Cargo Declaration means that all affiliated locals and their membership are expected to refrain from not only dealing with the company or their goods and services, but to REFUSE to handle the hot products in any way, be it on the job, in transit, or outside the workplace. Because of the significance of this declaration, its impact on the trade unionists required to observe it, and its great value in winning certain disputes, it must be used with even greater care, only when necessary, and only when it can be effectively implemented.

Accordingly, it is essential that the guidelines for boycotts must be rigorously applied. In making such requests, affiliates should recognize the following points:

1. The Hot Declaration will only be approved when conventional strike action and picketing appear insufficient to win a settlement.
2. As the ultimate weapon, the Hot Declaration will not normally be used during the first few weeks of a strike, except when employer attempts to scab make an early Hot Declaration essential.
3. The Hot Declaration will only be used when there has been an opportunity to have adequate consultation with all affiliates affected, to ensure that it can be implemented, as well as to determine the best timing and conditions for its implementation. The affiliate applying should assist the Federation by supplying a list of all affiliates who may be affected.

Adopted in Convention, October 1993
Saskatchewan Federation of Labour