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Phoenix

Safeway hires nearly 300 part-time workers

Neil Scott, Saskatchewan News Network; Regina Leader-Post

Published: Saturday, January 21, 2006

REGINA -- Canada Safeway Ltd. has hired nearly 300 new part-time employees in Saskatoon and Regina this week as replacements for other employees who have accepted a voluntary severance package.

John Graham, Safeway's public affairs manager for Saskatchewan and Manitoba, said more than 500 people applied for jobs when the company advertised for applicants earlier this week. Of those, 290 people were hired, including 125 in Saskatoon.

The 290 new employees will replace 153 employees, a mixture of full- and part-time workers, who have accepted a voluntary severance package offered by the company in accordance with terms of a contract agreement reached last year between the company and the union that represents Safeway workers.

"We're really pleased," Graham said, adding it was gratifying to see so many people interested in working for Safeway stores in Regina and Saskatoon.

Job-seekers applied in person at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon and at the Convention Centre in Regina, where Canada Safeway recruiters set up shop for three days.

While the jobs will be classified as part-time, Graham said the new workers will be able to get 30 hours of work per week. The hiring of the additional workers will give Safeway more flexib scheduling staff, he said.

There will also be a potential savings for Safeway because many of the new workers will be s the bottom of the wage scale for their job classification.

By comparison, many of the senior people who are leaving were at the top of the salary scale Wages for a sales service clerk will range from \$7.75 per hour to \$15.50 per hour, while "cou will receive \$7.30 per hour to \$9.40 per hour. Bakers will receive between \$8.75 and \$17.40

Randy Hoffman, a staff representative with the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Unio represents Canada Safeway workers, said the severance package was offered in accordanc provisions of a contract with the company that was negotiated by the union and ratified by the last year.



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