



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Federation of Labour Convention to focus on the economy, green jobs, and pensions

Leading Labour Economist Jim Stanford on the state of the economy for working people. How a green jobs strategy must be part of the economic solution. How Canada must improve its retirement system including innovative proposals from the labour movement.

These are just some of the issues to be discussed and debated at this year's Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour's issues-based Convention.

The 72nd annual convention takes place November 1-3 at the Holiday Inn in St. John's, with registration on Sunday evening and the convention on Monday and Tuesday. With 250 delegates and guests, this is shaping up to be the largest issues-based convention since the Federation starting holding them in 2001.

Federation of Labour President Lana Payne, who will address delegates at 9 am Monday, said the convention will examine the impact of the recession on working people, but will also present solutions – such as promoting a green jobs strategy for our province and country, a look at how Ireland has approached rural economic development, and concrete ways to improve Canada's system of pensions and retirement security.

The convention has an impressive list of guest speakers and will include a series of panel discussions.

“Nearly half a million Canadians have been laid off or pushed into part-time or self-employed work in the past year. Thousands have had their collective agreements and pensions attacked as employers use this recession to roll back hard-fought gains,” said Ms. Payne. In our own province, the recession has mostly been a rural crisis in sectors like the fishery and forestry.

“Working people are running out of EI benefits and Bill C-50 does little to help. We have one of the worst public pension systems among wealthy countries. Canada's record with respect to the green economy and green jobs is discouraging and in our own province the recession has hit rural Newfoundland and Labrador quite hard,” said the Federation President.



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The theme of the convention - "Labour's Way: Sharing the Wealth" - reflects our values as a labour movement, but more specifically it speaks to how we believe the wealth from our economy must be fairly shared, how the creation of green jobs are one way of building a more just world and respond to today's economic crisis, and how adequate pensions are a critical component of ensuring wealth is shared among citizens.

The Federation is pleased to have **Jim Stanford - CAW Economist, author and Globe and Mail columnist** - give the keynote address on Monday morning. Mr. Stanford will provide an overview of the state of the economy for working people.

He will be followed by a panel of two labour activists, **Jeannie Duffett with PSAC and Boyd Bussey with the United Steelworkers (USW)**, on how employers in both the private and public sector are using the recession to attack collective agreements.

In addition, the Federation has invited **Paul Keating, Manager of the Rural Development Support Unit, based within the Tipperary Institute in Ireland**, to address delegates regarding some of his country's policies and programs aimed at ensuring rural areas are not left behind.

Hassan Yussuff, Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), will deliver the luncheon keynote address.

Ms. Payne said the Federation of Labour is also committed to advancing the discussion in our own province around the green economy and green jobs.

There will be two panel discussions on Monday afternoon (November 2) dedicated to this theme of building a greener economy and creating good, family-supporting green jobs.

Speakers on the first panel discussion dealing with the future economy and green jobs will be:

- **Elizabeth Weir, President of Efficiency New Brunswick;**
- **Angelo DiCaro of the Canada Youth Climate Coalition;**
- **Robert Dornan with the NL Carpenters' Union.**



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The second panel which will address building alliances between the labour and environment movements will feature:

- **Gil McGowan, President of the Alberta Federation of Labour**
- **Andy King of the USW's Environment Department.**

On Tuesday, the discussion will focus on pensions. **Joel Harden, an economist with the Canadian Labour Congress specializing in pensions,** will give the keynote address and present the labour movement's proposals for improving our country's retirement income system.

He will be followed by a panel of labour pension experts including:

- **Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer of NAPE;**
- **Leanne MacMillan, Research Representative with CUPE;**
- **Guy Caron, an Economist with the CEP.**

The Federation will be pushing for our province to support the labour movement's demand for stronger public pensions, including enhanced CPP, OAS and GIS.

MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Attached is a copy of the NLFL's convention agenda and speakers. Any media interested in setting up interviews with any of our guest speakers, please contact Kerry Murray at the NLFL offices at 754-1660 or by email kmurray@nlfl.nf.ca

All sessions are open to the media. Media can register Monday morning or with the Federation's offices which will be set up in the Conception Bay North Room at the Holiday Inn through the convention.

For further information you can also contact Federation of Labour President Lana Payne at 754-1660 or 743-5343.