

News Release

For Immediate Release

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TAKE ACTION to Save Rescue Centre Website Launched – www.maydaynl.ca

The MAYDAY-NL Coalition has launched a SAVE OUR MARITIME SEARCH and RESCUE CENTRE website in its ongoing campaign to get the Harper government to reverse its decision to close down this important life-saving service.

Lana Payne, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL) and Coalition member, said it is extremely important for the people of our province and country to voice their opposition to this reckless decision. “We are encouraging all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to take action by signing our online petition and by emailing the Prime Minister.”

Inadequate search and rescue services off the east coast of Canada continue to be a very big concern for all of us, especially those who have people working at sea, said Ms. Payne.

“The decision by the Harper Government to close down the rescue centres in both St. John’s and Quebec City is completely wrong-headed and irresponsible,” she said. At a time when the calls and evidence for improved and enhanced search and rescue services are mounting, this government is moving in the opposite direction.

Earle McCurdy, President of Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW/CAW) which represents thousands of fish harvesters and other offshore workers, including oil tanker crews, in the province, said it is of critical importance that we get this decision overturned. “The Harper government is saying that saving money is more important than saving lives and we have to let them know in no uncertain terms that we find this position unacceptable.” Mr. McCurdy said this is also a matter of grave importance to the families of those who work at sea.

Christine Collins, the National President of the Union of Canadian Transportation Employees, said the launch of the website following the recent CBC Fifth Estate program detailing the inadequateness of Canada’s search and rescue services is indeed timely. “This government is blind to the effects of the continued cuts to services in Search and Rescue. Canadians need to ask themselves how many lives will be lost because of these cuts,” she said. Ms Collins is urging the public to support our ongoing efforts to stop the closure of the centres. “The question of the day is always: What is a life worth?”

The website, www.maydaynl.ca allows citizens to sign a petition and send a letter directly to the Prime Minister calling on him to reverse the decision. In addition, the website contains general facts about the service and the importance to the people of our province who work offshore. In addition, a facebook page has also been launched as part of this online campaign. It can be found by going to the website.

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Contacts:

Lana Payne, President NLFL, @ 754-1660 or 743-5343 (cell)

Christine Collins, President UCTE @ 613-238-4003 (office); 613-296-5583 (cell)

Earle McCurdy, President FFAW/CAW @ 576-7276