

## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### **Labour leaders condemn Vale's anti-union tactics, discuss action plan in support of Voisey's workers**

In a show of solidarity, a cross-section of labour leaders gathered in St. John's Wednesday to develop a plan of action in support of USW Local 9508 and its members, who will mark the one-year anniversary of their strike against Vale on August 1. The leaders also condemned the union-busting tactics of Vale, the second largest mining corporation on the planet.

Lana Payne, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL), called the emergency meeting of affiliate leaders after contract talks between USW and Vale broke off.

"Once those talks broke off last week because Vale wanted the Newfoundland and Labrador workers to swallow something less than their sisters and brothers in Sudbury settled for, it became very clear that Vale was not interested in a fair collective agreement, but rather in breaking the union and bringing the Newfoundland and Labrador workers to their knees," said Ms. Payne.

In addition to developing a solidarity plan of action, details of which will unfold over the coming days and weeks, Ms. Payne said the federation's affiliated unions were clear in their support and solidarity with the USW members. "This is not just an attack on the Voisey's Bay workers and their union, this is an attack against the entire labour movement," said the NLFL President.

From day one, this multinational mining giant has engaged in anti-union tactics, has attempted to erode labour rights, and has thumbed its nose at the right to strike and the right to free collective bargaining.

"They have been able to use scab labour and resume production during a legal strike because we do not have a law in our province that prevents them from doing so. In this new global age we need labour laws that protect labour rights from corporations who think they are above governments and can play by their own rules."

Ms. Payne will be taking the message of solidarity and fightback to Goose Bay this weekend when she attends the one-year anniversary events being organized by USW Local 9508.

The labour movement reiterated its call on the provincial government to intervene in support of the striking workers by introducing anti-scab legislation and sending the dispute to a binding arbitration panel.

In addition, labour leaders expressed their support and solidarity yesterday for the 15 NAPE members, employment support workers from the Marystown-Burin area, who have been on strike for eight months. "We joined with NAPE in calling on Treasury Board to return to the table and negotiate a fair collective agreement for these workers," said Ms. Payne.

For more information contact Lana Payne, NLFL President, at 754-1660 or 743-5343.