



## **News Release**

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For Immediate Release

### **Federation of Labour supports Marystown fish plant workers**

Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour President (NLFL) Lana Payne has extended the Federation's support and solidarity to the fish plant workers of Marystown who are fighting to keep jobs in their rural community.

Ms. Payne said the issue at play in Marystown is of importance to all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. What is at the heart of the Marystown situation is a public policy commitment to maximizing the economic benefit of our resources for the people and communities of our province, whether they are fishery, mining, energy or oil and gas.

The public policy goal of no more giveaways must apply here as well, said the labour leader.

The FFAW/CAW members have tried working with the company, OCI, in an effort to keep the plant operating and providing decent employment to the more than 200 Burin Peninsula residents who work at the groundfish plant.

The union and its members have agreed to many concessions over the past number of years, including the export for processing to China and the United States 50% of the company's groundfish quota. The workers agreed to this based on a promise from OCI to deliver 35 weeks of work annually at the facility with its remaining quota.

The company is now seeking to export upwards of 80% of the quota to China and the United States and along with it rural jobs. This represents a race to the bottom that the workers cannot support.

She said the workers have taken a principled and just stand by demanding that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians receive maximum economic benefit from our resources and that those benefits include jobs in rural communities.



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This issue is obviously a matter of great concern not just for the people of Marystown, but for the entire province if we do not continue to demand that the people of Newfoundland and Labrador are the chief beneficiaries of our resources. This should be a clear public policy goal of any government, she said.

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