



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

**NLFL SUPPORT POSTAL WORKERS,
CONDEMNS HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR BACK TO WORK LEGISLATION**

Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour President Lana Payne is condemning the Harper government for its violation of the labour rights of Canada's postal workers.

"But let's be clear, this is not just about our sisters and brothers locked out by Canada Post, this attack is an attack on every unionized worker in the country. This attack is an attack on unions, labour rights, free collective bargaining, a level playing field in negotiations, and the very collective agreements that have helped to build Canada's middle class," said Ms. Payne.

"I want our sisters and brothers who work at Canada Post throughout Newfoundland and Labrador to know they are not alone. They have our support in this most important struggle. This is outrageous. We now have a government that has clearly said that it will no longer even pretend to be neutral. Instead we have a federal government that has decided to blatantly side with the corporations."

This legislation denies nearly 50,000 postal workers, represented by CUPW, their basic democratic right to free collective bargaining.

"What incentive is there for any employer in the federal sector to come to a collective bargaining table and negotiate in good faith when they know they have the Harper government willing and able to impose their demands," said the Federation of Labour President.

Ms. Payne said the federal budget's massive funding cuts, the threat of back to work legislation against CAW members and now the introduction of back to work legislation for postal workers that imposes wages lower than were proposed at the collective bargaining table amount to a massive assault against working people, unions and labour rights.

Just as outrageous is the government will be legislating back a group of workers who have been **locked out**.



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“I can’t remember a time when this was ever done,” she said. “Why isn’t the government ordering Canada Post to end the lock out?”

Ms. Payne said that it is not just the labour movement condemning the legislation. She noted the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) has written Labour Minister Lisa Raitt stressing that the right to freedom of association is enshrined in our Charter.

The CCLA said that the proposed legislation will significantly impede the associational rights of workers under the Canadian Charter and interfere with their ability to engage in effective collective bargaining.

The Harper government has now tipped the entire collective bargaining process in the federal sector to the side of the employers. “It’s not bad enough that workers have to fend off concession-demanding employers, now they must also deal with a majority federal government that has decided to violate labour rights and interfere in collective bargaining.”

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For more information contact NLFL President Lana Payne at 754-1660.