



## Media Release

**For Immediate Release:  
December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

### **Federation President Outraged with Assessment Rate Reduction Workers Overdue a Benefit Increase**

Mary Shortall, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour expressed her anger at yet another reduction to the Workplace NL employer assessment rate, when workers needs are ignored. See <http://www.whscc.nf.ca/home/news.whscc?newsid=5ec4db3f-076d-4c6e-9de9-08a63540ca70>.

“Workplace NL has one the lowest workers compensation rates in all of Canada,” stated Ms. Shortall, “Too many workers who lose time due to a workplace injury or occupational illness face a serious loss of income. The 2013 Statutory Review recommended a small increase, and yet nothing is done. Workplace NL should be demanding government increase the compensation rate as recommended. Clearly the money is available to assist workers in need.” Ms. Shortall added, “Where is the money for increased education and awareness? A review of the Workplace NL industry facts reveal serious work place issues that demand immediate attention. Violence in the workplace has increased 69% over five years. In manufacturing, there have been 24 fatalities since 2011. Young workers have seen serious injuries increase over 22%.”

In 2013, the average assessment rate was \$2.75 per \$100 of assessable payroll. In 2014, this was reduced to \$2.45. In January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016, employers benefitted when the assessment rate was lowered to \$2.20. Also, at this time, Workplace NL removed the \$0.25 surcharge. January 2017 will see another 6% cut, as the average assessment rate will be lowered to \$2.06.

At the same time injured workers receive 80% of net earnings. The 2013 Statutory Review recommended this be increased to 85%. Six jurisdictions across Canada provide 90%.

Ms. Shortall concluded, “As a key stakeholder in occupational health and safety, we expect to be consulted by Workplace NL in any decisions affecting workers compensation.”

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