



NLFL – Canadian Federation of Students Day of Action, November 2nd

On November 2nd, students and workers will stand together to call upon the provincial and federal government to increase funding to post-secondary education and address the skyrocketing cost of tuition across Canada. The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) will be holding a National Day of Action, where students from St. John's, NL to Victoria, BC, will be taking to the streets to demand FREE education for ALL.

This is a crucial time for the people of this province to stand up to cuts to our public services. In the most recent provincial budget, there were massive cuts to Memorial University and the needs-based grants program, the introduction of taxes on books, and threats of college campus closures. We must act now – and act together—in order to save our system of post-secondary education and demand better for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Certainly, Newfoundland & Labrador faces a number of challenges such as the highly rural population, the aging population, struggles to attract and retain immigrants (from other provinces and internationally), the fall in revenues and the deficit. We need a vision to create an economy that works in the context of our Province.

Cutting or privatizing post-secondary education is not how we grow our economy – We need young workers to fill the jobs that will be needed as older workers retire. We need to attract, recruit and retain young workers and students to live and work in Newfoundland & Labrador – and a strong public sector and services, including affordable, accessible and public post-secondary education, which is key to any youth retention or population growth strategy. That is our vision.

The Labour movement and the student movement have been long-time allies. We know that at the core of our movements, the principals are the same – we are fighting for a more just, equitable economy and society as a whole. This Day of Action is not just a call for a system of high-quality, universally accessible post-secondary education, but also a call for the government to invest in its people and the future of our province.

Please join the NLFL, at noon outside the Memorial University clock tower, where workers and students will stand together, united in our demand for strong public services and a vision for an economy in Newfoundland and Labrador - where nobody is left behind.

Mary Shortall
President, Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Labour

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