



## **Media Release**

For Immediate Release  
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### **NLFL And CCPA-NS Release Research Paper: “Great Expectations - Opportunities And Challenges For Young Workers In Newfoundland And Labrador”**

**St. John’s** - The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL), in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Nova Scotia (CCPA–NS) are releasing a research paper outlining the opportunities and challenges facing young workers in our province on Wednesday January 7<sup>th</sup> 2015, 11:00 am at The Loft, UC-3013, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Smallwood University Center at Memorial University, St. John’s Campus

The Report, *“Great Expectations - Opportunities And Challenges For Young Workers In Newfoundland And Labrador”* identifies concerns from both employers and young workers about prospects for youth employment in Newfoundland and Labrador.

While the province’s economic performance has been steadily improving over the past several years, youth unemployment and outmigration remains a significant issue. The report draws on the experience and insights of youth and employers, and serves as a check-in on the extensive research previously undertaken to develop a *Youth Attraction and Retention Strategy* for the province.

“The problem of youth attraction and retention in the Newfoundland and Labrador labour market is, in many ways, a case of mismatched expectations,” said Dr. Deatra Walsh, primary author of the report. “While it is true that young workers’ expectations of high wages and rapid advancement in work they find fulfilling may be unrealistic given the current economic climate, so too are employers’ expectations that young workers will be ready and able to commit to positions with little security and minimal training, especially if pay is low and benefits are absent.”



“Our youth continue to face an uncertain future in terms of new and quality employment opportunities,” said NLFL President Mary Shortall. “This report will help us identify the challenges, and put forth sound solutions for addressing youth employment, attraction and retention. Our province, its employers and unions need young workers, and we must do what we can to ensure they can stay, earn a decent living, and raise their families here in NL.” she added.

The report findings highlight the complexity of this issue, but also point to critical pathways for addressing youth employment, attraction and retention in Newfoundland and Labrador effectively.

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