



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Labour Day: Celebrate our victories and demand economic wealth is shared, says Labour Federation President

“This Labour Day we celebrate the many accomplishments of working people and their unions in our province, but we also demand that the progress continue,” said Lana Payne, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL).

“Our province is rich in resources. We have more economic wealth than at any time in our history. We have a labour force that is celebrated for our skills and tremendous work ethic. We have a labour movement that has for generations fought to advance the well-being of workers and promote a good society and this Labour Day we will celebrate this,” said Ms. Payne.

But the Federation of Labour president said “we are asking Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to demand that the progress continue. We firmly believe that as a society our economic wealth must be shared more fairly and now is an excellent time to consider how we can make Newfoundland and Labrador a better province, a better place to live and work.”

The Federation of Labour continues to highlight how much of our wealth (GDP) is soaked up in corporate profits (2.5 times the national average). This in no way represents a fair sharing of the province’s economic wealth, said Ms. Payne.

This fall the Federation begins to celebrate its 75th anniversary as a Federation, 75 years of unions working together to make a difference.



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“And like our founders, issues like a fair sharing of our economic wealth and workers’ health and safety will continue to be Federation priorities,” said Ms. Payne. For example, she noted, the Federation will continue to push for an independent, powerful safety agency for workers in our offshore oil industry and for a high-quality early learning and child care system for working parents.

The Federation, in conjunction with the Canadian Labour Congress and the St. John’s and District Labour Council, will be hosting a Labour Day Family Fun Picnic on Monday, September 5th (1 pm to 5 pm) in St. John’s at the Swiler’s Rugby Club. All are invited. Rain or Shine. There will be music (Denielle Hann); bouncy castles and face-painting for the kids and food for all. And of course a few short speeches.

Labour Day represents all that has been accomplished to improve the lot of working people so they can better support their families and enjoy life. The progress we celebrate has benefitted all working people whether they are in a union or not. “And what better way to celebrate that than with our families on the one day of the year dedicated to recognizing the struggles and progress made by working people and their unions?”

Lana Payne’s Labour Day Statement is also attached.

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Contact Lana Payne, NLFL President @ 754-1660 or 743-5343 (cell).