



September 18th, 2017

Minister Sherry Gambin-Walsh
Minister of Service NL, Minister Responsible
For Workplace NL & the Government Purchasing Agency
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
1 O'Reilly Street
P.O. Box 515
Placentia, NL
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Dear Minister Gambin-Walsh,

I would like to express my thanks to you and government, for listening to our concerns at our last meeting, among which was the need to replace the balance on the Board of Directors for WorkplaceNL.

I am pleased to see the re-appointment of our nominee, Mr. Greg Pretty, to the Board. I am disappointed also, that Dawn Learning's appointment has not been renewed. I know that Dawn brought a very knowledgeable, worker perspective to the Board. I am disappointed that we have lost our historical ability, to recommend those who we understand to be among the "experts"; when it comes to workers, and WCB, and OHS, and workplaces. I would also like to note the gender imbalance on the new board – which is another reason why it makes sense for our Federation of Labour to recommend the worker representatives.

I know Bert and I have talked to you about Board balance. I understand the third "Worker" representative position has remained vacant, and that you are hoping to fill it with someone from outside of St. John's. We will of course, as you suggested, encourage our "experts" to apply.

I also want to reiterate our position, that no decision from the Board of Directors of WorkplaceNL, be made around assessment reductions or issues directly impacting injured workers, without a fully representative Board.

I am also urging government, once again, to immediately act upon the recommendations of the 2013 Statutory Review; especially as it pertains to MCAE and Injured Workers Income Replacement Rate (IRL) to 85%.

I am looking forward to our input, as a major stakeholder representing workers, with Mr. Peddle. I am always available to discuss these or any issues, which make our workplaces healthy and safe for all workers in Newfoundland & Labrador.

Sincerely,

Mary Shortall
President, Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Labour

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