



**For Immediate Release
February 20th, 2018**

**Injured Workers to Get a Raise - Finally!
NL Federation of Labour Celebrates Campaign Victory**

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL) welcomes today's announcement by Service NL Minister Sherry Gambin-Walsh, to introduce legislation to increase the workers compensation income replacement benefits, from 80 to 85 per cent of net income.

As NLFL President, Mary Shortall explains, "Currently, Newfoundland & Labrador (NL) has the lowest income replacement rate for an injured worker, in all of Canada. When it comes to maximum annual earnings for benefits on earnings, we are the ninth lowest of thirteen jurisdictions. The 2013 Statutory Review, recommended the income replacement rate increase to meet the Atlantic average of 85%. This change is long overdue."

"We have been lobbying government and ministers since 2013, advocating for this change. We are grateful that Minister Gambin-Walsh and government have listened to us, and have honoured this recommendation, and that the Board of Directors at Workplace NL have endorsed it," states Shortall. "The workers compensation injury fund has never been healthier; and while employer assessment rates have decreased by over 30% since 2014, injured workers have seen no increase. This is the absolute right thing to do for injured workers in this province."

Every day, 14 workers are injured on the job, one of those seriously. The NLFL believes that more needs to be done to improve workplace health and safety, and to ensure that injured workers and their families are not made to suffer, as a result of a work-related injury.

Our Federation was happy to participate in consultations about workplace injury prevention strategies; and we look forward to discussions around workplace mental health, including PTSD as it relates to Workers Compensation.

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