



**Media Release
For Immediate Release**

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NLFL Welcomes the Introduction of Legislation to Modernize the Residential Tenancies Act; and Recognize the Impact on Victims of Domestic Violence

St John's, NL – The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL) commends Minister Gambin-Walsh, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Government, for today's announcement to amend the "Residential Tenancies Act"; and for recognizing the importance of ensuring that victims of domestic violence are able to terminate their rental agreements, without fear of financial penalties.

The Federation has been pushing government to address domestic violence at work; by presenting amendments to several laws and regulations, to respond to the startling statistic, that 1 in 3 workers experience domestic violence at work.

"This recent amendment gives much needed protection to the victims of domestic violence, and their children, by removing one more barrier for many," says NLFL President, Mary Shortall. "Allowing a shorter notice period, will help to ensure that those victims, and their children, are protected and able to leave their rental property without undue financial hardship; and that landlords do not have to deal with prolonged danger or damage to their property, as well. It's one more way to show support, and offer protection, for those who find themselves living with violence, as they get out of those situations."

Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) has among the highest rates of intimate partner violence in Canada, and is one of only two provinces where it is on the rise.

Along with the positive changes government has made, to both the definition of family violence, as well as today's changes to the "Residential Tenancies Act", the NLFL is hopeful that similar changes will be imminent to the "Employment Standards Act", as well as to the "Occupational Health and Safety Act" and Regulations. Changes that will allow for paid leave from work, for victims of domestic violence, and to recognize domestic violence at work as a workplace safety issue, along with putting measures in place, to ensure the employer's obligations under the Act and regulations.

Several provinces, as well as the Federal Government, have already addressed these



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issues, and NLFL President Mary Shortall, hopes that Newfoundland and Labrador will follow on all these areas soon.

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For Further Information:

Mary Shortall
President, Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Labour

(709) 699-3112 (Cell)

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