



**Media Release
For Immediate Release**

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**WorkplaceNL Report Shows Sustainable Injury Fund & Responsible Management
Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Labour Says “Good Time to Further
Improve Benefits for Injured Workers”**

St. John’s, NL: WorkplaceNL released its Annual Report last Friday, stating that it met its 2017 injury prevention and financial sustainability goals. For Mary Shortall, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL), it’s a great opportunity to make more improvements for injured workers.

As Shortall explains, “A primary purpose of WorkplaceNL is to help injured workers with their recovery, ensure they are sufficiently compensated, and assist them in their return to work. It is clear from the 2017 Annual Performance Report, with the injury fund at 131.6%, WorkplaceNL has the capacity to better serve injured workers.”

WorkplaceNL currently serves over 13,000 injured workers. Each day, on average, 13 workers are injured at their workplace.

The NLFL and its members lobbied extensively for more than 4 years to increase injured workers’ benefits, and launched a petition and online campaign late 2017, to increase the Income Replacement (IRR) rate for injured workers’ benefits. On April 1st, that rate was increased to 85%.

As Shortall explains, “We waited almost five years to see this recommended increase to 85% take effect. Today, six jurisdictions across Canada are able to provide an income replacement rate of 90%. It is clear from the latest WorkplaceNL performance report that we have the capacity to do the same.”

Another issue that WorkplaceNL could immediately move on is the Maximum Compensable & Assessable Earnings (MCAE), which is \$64,375 for 2018. This is the maximum gross earnings that WorkplaceNL will consider when a worker gets injured at work. “We have one of the lowest MCAEs in all of Canada,” stated Shortall. “Other than Atlantic Canada, most other provinces have substantially higher MCAEs. We believe it’s time for WorkplaceNL to look at increasing the base MCAE before adding an annual inflation rate increase.”



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Shortall says that the NLFL, representing 65,000 union members and their families in Newfoundland & Labrador (NL), will continue to work with WorkplaceNL, business and government; for healthier and safer workplaces for all workers.

The NLFL will continue to advocate for workers who are sick or injured on the job, so that until they are well enough to return to work, they receive fair and adequate compensation.

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