



For Immediate Release

December 12th, 2017

**Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Labour Launches Workers
Compensation Campaign - Injured Workers Deserve a Raise**

St. John's, NL - The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL) is launching a public campaign, to demand that the provincial government honour a 2013 Statutory Review recommendation, to increase the workers' compensation income replacement rate for injured workers by 5%.

Currently, Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) has the lowest income replacement rate in Canada, at 80% of net income. This means that any worker injured on the job, can expect to immediately see a minimum 20% drop in take-home pay. Six jurisdictions, provinces and territories, provide an income replacement rate of 90%; and 4 other provinces are at 85% net. We stand alone at 80% net.

As NLFL President Mary Shortall explains, "Since 2014, the WorkplaceNL injury fund has had a surplus of over 110%. Since 2013, employers have seen assessment rebates in excess of 30%. And yet, we still expect injured workers to live with a 20% drop in take home income. It's high time for government to do the right thing, honour the Statutory Review recommendation, and increase the income replacement rate for injured workers by 5%."

There are approximately 13,000 injured workers, who rely on WorkplaceNL for services. In Newfoundland and Labrador, 14 workers are injured at work each day. According to WorkplaceNL, "one of those workers will sustain a permanent injury resulting in long-term medical rehabilitation, wage-loss, and other disability benefits."¹ Over 200 workers suffer a serious injury each year.

Unfair and Unacceptable

President Shortall stated, "We have met with government each year to discuss this recommendation. And each year, we are told they are considering it. As we near the end of 2017, WorkplaceNL has just announced the injury fund has the highest surplus ever, at 126%; and yet we continue to expect injured workers to live with a 20% loss in income. This is totally unfair and unacceptable."

¹ WorkplaceNL 2015 Annual Performance Report, p. 32.



The NLFL will be reaching out to all our affiliates, 65,000 members, and the general public, to support this campaign, and to go online at www.nfl.nf.ca to learn more. There

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you can download our petition, or sign directly in support of increasing the income replacement rate to 85%.

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