



## **NLFL Statement in Solidarity with Persons with Disabilities**

Over half a million Canadians with disabilities are ready and able to work, but can't because of barriers to employment and training. Many are right here in our province. Persons with disabilities continue to face high unemployment rates and high levels of poverty. This in turn leads to greater use of, and demands on, social assistance programs like affordable housing, income and health care supports.

The Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL), its Executive Council and Affiliates are committed to working tirelessly to ensure that our labour movement is open and inclusive to all groups in society. We are also committed to working with other community groups, to ensure that our province and workplaces are more accessible, supportive, and welcoming to all equity seeking groups.

Unions have a unique leadership role to play in building and promoting employment and training opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, because of our unique access to many workplaces.

Working collectively to remove barriers to employment and create equal opportunity for people with disabilities, as well as members of all equity seeking groups, results in life changing impacts in their daily lives. As we move forward and emerge from this public health and economic crisis, we must ensure that all economic recovery efforts bring about permanent, positive change; but are also inclusive, equitable, and that there is equal opportunity for everyone to participate in and benefit from the economy.

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the NLFL re-affirms its commitment to ensuring that we continue to work towards creating more space, not only in the labour movement, but in workplaces where a decent job can be a life changing event for someone with a disability.

It is also important that we confront our own perceptions of people with disabilities, that we raise awareness around the plight of people with disabilities in the workforce, and encourage employers to hire people with disabilities into meaningful and decent work.

Through our ongoing and important work around diversity, inclusion and equality, the NLFL remains firmly committed to working collaboratively with others to ensure equal space in our movement for persons with disabilities; as well as all equity seeking groups; and that we are actively engaged in making sure that our Federation proudly represents all of our members.



-2-

You can read more about International Day of Persons with Disabilities [here](#).

Mary Shortall  
President, Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Labour

JR/MS  
Unifor 597