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Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL) President Resigns from Premier's Economic Recovery Team (PERT)

St. John's, NL - Mary Shortall, President of the Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL), submitted her resignation from the Premier's Economic Recovery Team (PERT) to Premier Andrew Furey this morning.

Shortall thanked the Premier for the invitation to serve on the Team, stating that she entered the process with an open mind and a desire to be an active and engaged participant.

However, she believes that her continued participation will place her in conflict with her role and mandate as President of the NLFL, representing 70,000 members who have elected her to her position.

“Due to the confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement I had to sign when I started with the Committee, I cannot get into specifics on the committee's deliberations or delve too deeply into my reasons for resigning,” said Shortall. “I can say that the lack of transparency, top-down approach, rushed timeline, lack of real collaboration and an overall feeling that not all perspectives were being considered, or appreciated, are the overarching themes for my decision.”

“Ultimately, it has not felt like a real “team” approach for such a serious issue,” continued Shortall.

“The recommendations that will be made by Chair Dame Greene may very well shape the next several decades of the type of economy and society we will live in,” Shortall said. “It is imperative that the voices of workers, as well as marginalized and underrepresented groups, be heard, considered, acknowledged, and truly reflected in any discussion around economic recovery. Most importantly, it must be real collaboration and consultation, not simply window dressing.”

“Our Federation remains open to working with government to find solutions to help make that happen,” Shortall said. “Unfortunately, this process is not the right vehicle for that important work and as a result, I can no longer remain a part of the Team.”



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