

June 2, 2009



Nova Scotia
Federation of Labour, CLC

To: All Affiliates

Sisters and Brothers,

As you likely know, the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), together with our affiliate unions, are co-sponsoring a **BETTER CHOICE NOVA SCOTIA 2009** campaign leading up to the Nova Scotia provincial election on June 9th.

As part of this campaign, we have **leaflets** which we would like to have distributed to union members throughout Nova Scotia. The leaflet is on our website on this news page. One of our campaign organizers may have phoned you already to ask for the number of leaflets which your union / Local require for your membership, but if you have not yet placed your order, please phone our **Campaign Headquarters & Phone Bank at 902-455-9746** at any time (or contact Tony Tracy or campaign coordinator Trevor Beckerson directly in the CLC office at 902-455-2965 / email ttracy@clc-ctc.ca).

Additionally, our campaign organizers are interested in making very brief (ie. 5 to 10 minute) presentations in any upcoming union Local or Executive meetings that are taking place throughout the next two weeks -- please let us know if any of the Locals which you represent are having meetings between now and June 9th to which we could send a **BETTER CHOICE NOVA SCOTIA 2009** campaign organizer to attend to make a brief presentation.

The **BETTER CHOICE NOVA SCOTIA 2009** focuses on six issues of interest to working people and unions throughout the province. Our leaflet entitled "**Who's on your side?**" addresses these issues in greater detail. These six issues are:

- **Jobs & the Economy** – why are our young & middle-aged people are leaving Nova Scotia? Where are the opportunities here?

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- **Health Care** – Health care is a concern to all of us. Emergency rooms are too frequently closing around this province; there is a shortage of long term beds. And we must avoid Nova Scotia having a two-tier system for medicare.
- **Pensions & Retirement** – We are all concerned that pensions will not be here when we retire. Many workers have seen thier pensions disappear as our economic problems continue. We need a government that will nsure that workers can retire with dignity.
- **Poverty Reduction** – We all know people on social assistance, or living on less than a living wage. Poverty issues can lead violence and other negative set backs. We need an immediate increase in the minimum wage. In addition, we need more public child care spots, and must resist the advance of for-profit, impersonal childcare.
- **Education** – We are all feeling debt with tuition, whether it is our own or our children's debt. We need to freeze post-secondary tuition, and imporve training opportunites for all Nova Scotians.
- **Fair Treatment for Nova Scotian Workers** - We need to improve health & safety regulations, and increase enforcement of these regulations. We need to make employment insurance (EI) workable, and achievable of workers. We need to make Workers' Compensation work for us – not the Employer.

I encourage you to talk to your membership about each of these issues.

The **BETTER CHOICE NOVA SCOTIA 2009** campaign involves having union members contact sister & brother members in their own unions to talk about key important issues that are arising during this election campaign (such as pensions and retirement security / health care / jobs & the economy / poverty / education / infrastructure / etc.). Presently, we have 20 organizers from various unions who are working fulltime on the campaign until June 9th, but we certainly welcome additional involvement from more union affiliates and Locals -- please contact Tony Tracy directly 455.2965 (o) 223.9489 (cell) if you have any questions about the campaign.

In solidarity,



RICK CLARKE
President

RC/jw/CAW Local 4005