

## 10th Federal Budget Watch a success

On Wednesday, February 23 Federal Finance Minister Ralph Goodale released the Federal Budget for 2005. In Halifax, this event was marked by a group of labour and social justice activists holding the 10th Federal Budget Watch.

Federation President Rick Clarke, who made a presentation

“The budget watch has become an important way for activists to get together and share information about the issues we are all working on, and for us to provide a good evaluation of the federal budget as seen through a social justice screen” said Paulette Sadoway, CLC Representative and one of the organizers of this year’s event. “We were surprised when we realized that this was the tenth budget watch we have organized in Halifax”.

Each year, the budget watch organizers identify key issues in the budget, and then line up community experts to talk about those issues at the budget watch. Here is this year’s line up of issues, and the presenters: Financial overview and assessment of Canada’s REAL financial situation: John Jacobs, CCPA-NS Job Creation: Rick Clarke, President of the NSFL Education: Danielle Sampson, Canadian Federation of Students

Health Care: Ian Johnson, NS Citizens Healthcare Network Overseas Development Assistance: Joan Campbell, Canadian Crossroads International EI/ Training: Cheri Meehan, President of the Halifax-Dartmouth & District Labour Council Kyoto/Environment: Anne Warburton, Ecology Action Centre Privatization/P-3’s: Ken Hale, PSAC and co-chair of the NSFL Political Action Committee Poverty/

Homelessness: Megan Leslie, Dalhousie Legal Aid

For a complete evaluation of the Federal Budget, please check out the CLC’s web site, at [www.clc-ctc.ca](http://www.clc-ctc.ca). Also, go to [www.canadianlabour.ca](http://www.canadianlabour.ca), and learn more about the CLC’s legislative priorities on issues such as child care, retirement security, Employment Insurance, jobs and economic development, health care and anti-scab legislation.

## MARCH 21ST, 2005 STATEMENT

### “Our Anti-Racism Fight Continues!”

The Nova Scotia Federation of Labour joins the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and People of Colour and Indigenous communities worldwide, to commemorate March 21st, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The following statement is from the CLC:

The CLC would like to use this day to ask all Canadians to join workers across this country in implementing the National Action Plan recently announced by the federal government in its 2005 Budget.

The Canadian National Action Plan should be more than a human rights tool but also an economic tool to build our society by recognizing and respecting the contribution People of Colour and Aboriginal Peoples to building Canadian institutions and society.

The implementation of the Action Plan will be meaningful if Canadians do the following:

- Unions and employers take responsibility in eliminating systemic barriers and racism in employment

**STAMP  
OUT  
RACISM**

Con't on page 3

# Convention 2005



The forty-third Convention of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, C.L.C. will be held at the Holiday Inn Harbourview, 99 Wyse Rd. in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, October 23<sup>rd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>. The Convention convenes at 6 pm on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> with registration 4:00 pm - 6:00

pm outside the Lake City Ballroom. Registration will also be held on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am - 9:30. The banquet will be held on Tuesday evening and convention winds up on early Wednesday afternoon. The Convention Call will be sent out soon.

## April 28th - Day of Mourning

April 28th is the annual day of remembrance for workers killed or injured on the job. This year, as in years past, we will gather at events around the province to publicly renew our commitment to “fight for the living” as well as “mourn for the dead”. This April 28th marks the 21st year that we will be commemorating this day. The Halifax ceremony will be held at 11 am at Province House by the plaque that was unveiled in 2002 in



memory of Nova Scotians killed in workplace accidents. We will place wreaths in memory of the victims by the Nova Scotia Red Maple Tree which was planted beside the plaque in 2002, and we invite you to come and do the same this year.

Refreshments will follow the ceremony.

If your Local or labour Council is having an event, please let us know at the Federation Office and we will

make sure we get the notice out to people as soon as possible.

## Anti-Racism-Human Rights & Women's Conference *United in Activism*

The Nova Scotia Federation of Labour Women's & Anti-Racism/Human Rights Committees' conference is on May 13, 14 & 15, 2005 at the Delta Hotel in Sydney. If you have not sent in your registration, please get it

in to us. If you need information, please call the Federation office. The deadline for conference registration and hotel reservations is Wednesday, April 13, 2005.

### N.S. Worker UPDATE

The Nova Scotia Worker UPDATE is published by the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, CLC

3700 Kempt Rd., Suite 225,  
Halifax, N.S., B3K 4X8

**902.454.6735** phone  
**902.454.7671** fax  
[nsfl@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:nsfl@ns.aliantzinc.ca) email

This newsletter is posted on our website [www.nsfl.ns.ca](http://www.nsfl.ns.ca)



CAW Local 4005

## *Con't from page 1*

opportunities in our workplaces, where most workers spend their lives.

- The federal government develop a National Anti-Racism framework for combatting racism, including the production of an Annual Report to Parliament, adopt a National Plan of Action with clear targets as promised preceding the UN's World Conference Against Racism and implement sections in the Durban Action Plan which were supported by the Canadian government.
- The federal government establishes an Anti-Racism National Council for the implementation of all national, provincial and municipal anti-racism and human rights policies and legislation.
- The federal, provincial and territorial governments, school boards and teachers work together to eliminate systemic racism in the school system, where students spend most of their lives.
- All levels of government work together to integrate immigrants into the Canadian labour force by working with appropriate agencies to recognize international credentials.
- Make it a priority to have Aboriginal youth and youth of Colour have equal access to education, training, and apprenticeship programs.
- Eliminate systemic racism and racial profiling in Canadian immigration, security, legal, judicial and policing systems.

People of Colour and Aboriginal Peoples have contributed to the richness of our country and in every sphere of Canadian life. As the Canadian population continues to increase, both of these communities will continue to play an even greater role in the further development of our country and unions. March 21st is an opportunity for all Canadians to double their efforts to eliminate racial discrimination.

By doing so we will also

honour those died on March 21st, 1960 where sixty-nine Black demonstrators were killed and 180 wounded by armed white South African police while protesting Apartheid South Africa's discriminatory pass laws in Sharpeville Township. Six years after the Sharpeville Massacre, in response to the outrage expressed by the international labour and human rights community, the United Nations declared March 21st, the International Day to Eliminate Racial Discrimination.

## **Workplace Education Project Update**

*Upcoming workshops on clear language - Reading Your Rights - Clear Language for Union Communication*

Have you ever read something and finished it by asking yourself, "What was that?" Clear language is at the root of whom and what we are as union activists. As a tool, it allows members to understand their rights, builds knowledge and self-confidence. Clear language can be a great equalizer of power for unionists, and used wisely, will lead to greater solidarity among the movement. Labour councils in Nova Scotia will be offering a workshop in clear language for union communications. This workshop will help you develop clear language writing skills to reach more members. You will get hands on experience developing union

material that will be more accessible and inclusive.

10-hour workshops will be offered at the following labour council schools:

1. April 22-23 - New Glasgow District Labour Council
2. November 18-19 Cape Breton District Labour Council

Please contact your labour council to register. If you need more information, please call Linda Wentzel: 902.634.4501.

# Peer learning guide school

The Federation's Workplace Education week-long peer-learning guide school was held in January. A bad storm kept President Rick Clarke from driving to St. Anne's Gaelic Collegeto speak to the class. Here is an excerpt from his remarks which were read to the students:

First of all, I want to express my congratulations to you for taking the time out of what I know are busy schedules to be a part of this important initiative. This Peer Learning Guide project is a joint initiative - a result of a great deal of work with other key groups: The Nova Scotia Department of Education, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers' Union. The Canadian Labour Congress has given input also. I think that part of the success of the Federation's Workplace Education Project is the ability of Sister Linda Wentzel to foster and develop these important partnerships to get the job done. She, you and the Federation know how important this work is and I have enormous respect for that and our Executive is 110% behind this. The most important thing tonight is recognize your commitment to this project. I want to thank and congratulate the participants, the class instructors and the facilitators that have made this past week such a

success. Partnerships in training are our strength and we must build on that. Now is the time

for outreach within your unions. Now is the time for building and keeping this momentum going.



Linda Wentzel (NSFL), Donna Dowling (CEP 141), Shirley Hillier (CUPW 87), Barbara Sutherland-Foote (CUPE 759), Kevin Wamboldt (CEP 141), Eoin Dewar (CUPW 87), Stacy Kaulback (CEP 141), Cheryl Coughlin (CUPW-Nova), Shirley Samson (CUPE 5050), Mike Mombourquette (CUPE 759), Gloria Charsley (CUPE) Front row - left to right: John Evan (CUPE 759), Courtney Wentzell (CEP 141), Kevin Muise (CEP 141), Mark Hamilton (CUPW 87), Jamie Swain (CUPE 5050).



Nova Scotia Federation of Labour Bursary applications are due in our office by July 8 . If you need forms, you can

download them from our web site: [www.nsfl.ns.ca](http://www.nsfl.ns.ca) or give us a call at 902.454.6735