

May 26
2006



Nova Scotia Federation of Labour **UPDATE**

Greetings:

We are in the midst of Election Campaign '06, where a raft of promises of core spending preceded the election call. In fact, prior to the actual calling of the election, the government had a throne speech and tabled a budget supporting these promises none of which have been passed by the Legislature and must be again re-tabled or they in fact are nothing but more promises.

We and many others feel the minority government was working in the best interests of Nova Scotians and we question why our new premier felt he must have an election and why he must have a majority.

What is it he wants to do? Where does he want to take us that cannot be done through the democratic process of the minority government?

In asking these questions, we must remember back when they had a majority, we had an attack on public services and the public sector; the battle against Bill

68 quickly comes to mind but there were many others.

The same can be said of the Liberals when they were in government both in a majority or a minority—they did little if anything to ease the burden on workers and their families and they also attached public services and the providers.

We must also remember the only progressive changes to our Labour laws experienced in over thirty years have been achieved during this term of a minority government, thanks to the leadership, hard work and determination of the NDP.

We are approaching the two week mark since the election was called and by all or most measures the campaign is going very well (something I guardedly say for fear of jinxing the outcome).

If you have been following the polls, you are aware that we are currently in a three-way race, and the NDP stands a real chance to win.

I know we don't have to tell you just how important this election is to workers and

there families and that is why we are writing today.

We believe that we are in the unique position to really make a difference this election—a difference that will benefit workers, their families and their communities, the opportunity is before us to grab.

Unions and community organizations are fully aware that if we are to achieve justice, equity, fairness and equality we must make our issues election issues.

Given that we are caught up in an election while we are in the midst of our Issues Campaign, our steering committee felt the timing and resources would not make a workplace canvas possible or feasible due to the shortness of the election.

However, we plan to make the best of this resource by getting the information into the hands of our collective members, providing the information to enable them to vote for their issues on June 13th and we anticipate

this information will be in circulation in the very near future.

The concept of political action includes many actions, from workplace action to collective action to electoral action, all of which we embrace in the struggle for fairness, justice and dignity for all. With an election upon us our focus is on electoral action.

As part of our overall campaign, we are writing to seek your financial support for the upcoming election. We realize and appreciate the contribution or commitment many or most of your national union offices have made towards the provincial campaign, and that is why we are focusing this appeal directly to provincial local unions and organizations.

As previously stated we have a real opportunity before us but election campaigns are costly and we urge that you give serious consideration to providing financial support to help ensure success in the upcoming election.

Donations can be made directly to the provincial campaign, to **The Nova Scotia NDP** and /or you can contribute to your local NDP candidate. The provincial NDP address is:
Suite 1006, 1660 Hollis

Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 1V7. Toll Free: 1-800-753-7696
(902) 423-9217. Nova Scotia NDP Campaign Office: (902) 466-1162. If you need information on local candidates, you can go to the website: www.ns.ndp.ca

To help us maintain a reasonable election activity record, we would ask that we be copied on any donation you are able to make to the central and/or local campaign.

Our own campaign on issues important to workers and their families will be in full swing during this campaign as well as other political activity and should your union not be able to make a donation to a political party, then your donation can be made to the NSFL—political action, which will go a long way to help advance our concerns and issues during this election.

During the election you may hear from the Party and/or a Labour Representative to seek your support in the election by providing releases or seeking volunteers for a variety of election- related activities and we would urge that you assist wherever you can.

In closing we feel that we must again state the obvious, this is perhaps one of the most important elections we have faced both in the issues at stake and the real opportunity to bring about real change, change that will benefit workers and their families.

If we act in the interest of our families and our communities; if we act and vote for the collective good of our province; we can and will make a difference—a difference that will take us closer to justice and dignity for all.

We thank you for your attention and hopefully your support to this request and we look forward to working with you as we strive for a better tomorrow.

In solidarity,

RICK CLARKE
President

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Please circulate this letter to all of your contacts.

CAW Local 4005