

# NSFL CONVENTION NEWS



Monday, October 24, 2005

**G**ood morning and welcome to our 43rd convention! We have a lot of work ahead of us over the next few days... resolutions to debate plus several emergency ones, a political panel with party leaders, committee reports, presentations from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Growthworks — an Atlantic Canadian venture fund that the Federation of Labour is excited about — a sweatshop fashion show and some dynamic and interesting speakers.

Those of you arriving late may have missed our very special guest Maude Barlow last evening. Maude is the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, the founder of the Blue Planet project, which aims to protect the world's water, and a Maritimer, having grown up in Digby and New Brunswick. Excerpts from her speech can be found on the back page.

Some of you got here really early — early enough to make the founding meeting of the Nova Scotia Federation of Union Retirees on Sunday morning. The President of the Congress of Union Retirees (CLC) Larry Wagg came

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## Rise and Shine!

**I**t is important that everyone be in the hall by 9 am sharp tomorrow morning for the start of the political panel. Don't miss this chance to hear from some key people on issues that impact workers. Yes, that's right, Deputy Premier Ron Russell, representing John Hamm, Liberal Leader Francis MacKenzie and Leader of the New Democratic Party Darrell Dexter, all together in one room with one big bunch of workers. If that's not worth going to bed early for, what is?

## Welcome Ken Georgetti!

CLC President Ken Georgetti will address us at 2:15 this afternoon.



## Solidarity Sisters

The women of convention are invited to a **Solidarity Celebration** at the City Terrace outside the Lake City Ballroom from 6-8:30 this evening — refreshments will be served.



*President Rick Clarke raises Council of Canadians Chairperson Maude Barlow's hand in a show of solidarity from labour.*

**Building on our STRENGTHS — MOVING forward**

43rd convention of the nova scotia federation of labour

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in from Ottawa to facilitate. Special thanks to Rene Quigley for his work in getting this organization off the ground.

If you haven't been to the display booths in the lobby please check them out... Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, CLC, Literacy, Council of Canadians, Growthworks and more... drop by and learn what you don't already know...

Also last evening we heard from Mary Lou Donnelly, President of the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union and Vice President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, who shared her experience at a

massive rally at the BC legislature last week.

She said the support from other unionized workers for the BC teachers strike has been overwhelming—over 15,000 teachers, students, parents and unionized workers were at the rally. She told delegates that because of the unprecedented actions of the BC government the right of every union in Canada to full collective bargaining was in jeopardy, and the way to protect our rights was through solidarity among the different unions.

Hang in there. We've only just begun.

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## Beware of creeping harmonization

**M**aude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians warned delegates about the coming assault on social rights, human rights and environmental protection, that was creeping up from below the border.

"The Bush administration has moved human rights back thirty years, gutted the clean air and clean water acts, and set back environmental protection 25 to 30 years," Maude warned. She said the US now had the greatest gap between rich and poor, with 22 percent

of children living in poverty.

"Bush has bled his people dry to pay for defense," she said, pointing to the one trillion dollars a year the Bush administration is spending on the war on terror. And that doesn't include the program to put nuclear weapons in space she added.

She said Canada has already signed a prosperity and security agreement with the US and Mexico that takes us one step closer towards harmonization with the US.

"Fortress North America," she said, would see a common security perimetre,

common visa, defense system, market, passport, (with a super passport for business travelers), common energy program, trade block and common water regime.

She warned that our Liberal government has already adopted the US big business agenda and that it is only a matter of time before we are going to see such things as a harmonization of labour standards and be asked to share our water with the US.

She said the labour movement had to stand up and stop Canada from adopting the Bush

doctrine.

"Social movements have been quiet lately and it's time to stop being quiet," she said.

"It's really important that we speak our truth to this power because in fact we are powerful ourselves when we speak with one voice."



**Another world is possible.**