



## **Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, CLC**

3700 Kempt Road, Suite 225

Halifax, N.S. B3K 4X8

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Dartmouth Holiday Inn** — Pension reform, opposition to the Corpus Sanchez report and holding employers accountable for workplace injuries were just a few of the concerns dealt with at the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour Convention in Dartmouth this week.

Trade unionists from across the province agreed to make pension reform a top priority over the next two years, and will be calling for a doubling of CPP benefits, improved and expanded public pensions and pension insurance.

They expressed frustration with lengthy and costly Labour Board hearings and vowed to lobby for the elimination of these barriers to organizing. They adopted an ambitious anti-P3 campaign and endorsed the recommendations of the Minimum Wage Review Committee.

They passed several resolutions calling for improvements to occupational health and safety, including a call for a special prosecutor to investigate workplace fatalities and serious injuries. They agreed to lobby the NDP government on several issues, including enacting the indoor air quality regulations which have been on the books for 12 years. And they expressed alarm that the Labour Affairs Officer for Cape Breton and Eastern Nova Scotia will be eliminated, and promised to lobby both levels of government to have this position re-instated.

They expressed concerns about the Corpus Sanchez report which calls for health department mergers and the transformation of health care and vowed to protect health-care worker jobs, especially nurses.

Delegates vowed to be diligent in advocating for people who are poor, low-waged, living in transition or group homes or living with mental health issues, and to hold slum landlords accountable.

They opposed cutbacks to rural postal services and endorsed a call for a national pharmacare plan to help the more than 42 percent of Canadians who do not have workplace drug coverage. They called for lower entrance requirements for employment insurance and increased and extended benefits.

Delegates agreed to support a buy-local campaign and to push for local food in our schools, hospitals and institutions.

The convention wrapped up today with the election of executive council. Rick Clarke was returned unopposed for his eleventh term as president of the 70,000-member Federation. NSGEU President Joan Jessome was re-elected First Vice-President, and Ivy Shaw returns as Secretary-Treasurer. Delegates also elected three Vice-Presidents-at-Large: Rick Garant, Tom McNamara and Danny Cavanagh; and a Vice-President Representative of Workers of Colour and Aboriginal Peoples: Jason MacLean.

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*For more information contact Joan Wark at 471-8104.*