



Nova Scotia  
Federation  
of Labour, CLC

August 29, 2007

**An open letter to all retailers and consumers of Nova Scotia**

In October 2006, when the MacDonald government gave up the fight against Sunday shopping, they went a step further than any or most other Canadian jurisdictions in announcing that all stores can now be open 364 days a year, with the exception of Remembrance Day.

Premier Macdonald stated at the time that he didn't think most stores would open on statutory holidays, but said that decision would be up to business, not government.

Late last week two of the provinces largest malls, Halifax Shopping Centre and Mic Mac Mall, along with some big-box stores announced they would be open on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Labour Day.

When he became aware of these announcements, Premier MacDonald made it clear he has no plans to force stores to close their doors on Labour Day stating, 'We've made our decision and we're standing by that decision'.

Premier MacDonald and his government have made their decision to ignore the spirit in which this holiday had been established - to honour and pay tribute to the contribution workers have made and continue to make to society and our economy providing a day they can relish in this tribute with family. We respectfully ask that you not follow Premier MacDonald's lead of disrespect shown to workers by observing this statutory holiday established in their honour, and keeping your doors closed allowing your valued employees to enjoy this tribute.

The public debate in 2006 had been over Sunday shopping and did not include a goal or push to undermine the few statutory holidays provided to workers of Nova Scotia - you have your Sunday shopping – let your workers have their holidays.

Yours truly,

**RICK CLARKE**

President

RC/jw/CAW Local 4005

Copy: Premier Rodney MacDonald;

Opposition Leader Darrell Dexter

Liberal Leader Stephen MacNeil