

## Time to apply for Federation Committees

As you know the Federation Committees are re-constituted every two years, right after convention. Membership on the Committees is comprised of members from Local Unions and Labour Councils who have an interest in the subject matter of the Committee and have a desire to make a contribution to the work of the Committee. They should have a good knowledge of the subject and be prepared to add to the discussion of the Committee.

To be accepted as a member of the Committee, individuals must be aware that the NSFL is not responsible to pay any earnings that may be lost by a Committee member for attending Committee meetings and/or time lost in travel; payments of earnings lost will be the responsibility of the sponsoring body (Union Local or Labour Council).

The Federation is committed to pay the cost of travel, meals and where required, lodging at a unionized hotel or motel, when and where available, for approved meetings of the Committee. (This policy is currently under review and should there be any change, proper notice will be given.) It should also be understood that

when members are full-time paid staff, their union will be expected to pay all expenses.

Should you have an interest in more than one Committee please list nominations by preference of choice, 1st, 2nd or 3rd on the chance that the Committee of choice is not available.

Please note that current Committee members who wish to serve again must also be re-nominated. Since the Committees are being re-constituted, current members



may not necessarily be appointed to the same Committee.

In submitting names, please include a brief summary of the persons involvement and why you think they would be qualified to serve on the Committee or Committees for which the name is being put forward to serve on. In accordance with Federation policy, we would request that if

the structure of your workplace is such, Locals submit both the name of a male and a female for selection consideration. We will continue our efforts for gender parity on Committees. We would also request your support in our goal of being representative of all workers by making every effort to put forward nominees for all Committees who may be representative of Workers of Colour, Aboriginal Peoples or other equity-seeking groups.

We have had some concerns regarding lack of participation on some of the Committees and we would urge you to ensure the people whose names you are putting forward are interested in participating and attending.

Also, some of our Committees do not have as many members as we would like and I am sure that one of the reasons is that we have all been involved in the many campaigns over the past two years which have keep us all extremely busy, but I can't emphasize enough the importance of having full, functioning committees because this can only strengthen our efforts on the many issues we deal with.

In the Federation's Constitution, there is a list of Standing Committees:

## **ARTICLE X - STANDING COMMITTEES**

Section 1. There shall be the following Standing Committees of the Federation:

- a) Occupational Health and Safety
- b) Women's Committee
- c) Technological Change Committee
- d) Human Rights Committee
- e) Education Committee
- f) Committee on Political Action
- g) Editorial Committee for the Nova Scotia Worker

Committees other than these are Ad Hoc Committees which the Federation considers important.

As in previous years, Committees of the Federation may not be appointed without sufficient numbers of nominees, with a cross-section of geographical and union representation, to constitute a working Committee.

Below is a list of the Federation Committees which had been filled and currently have sitting Committee members:

- Anti-Racism/Human Rights Committee
- Committee on Political Action
- Education Committee
- Health Care Committee
- Occupational Health and Safety/Workers' Compensation Committee
- Women's Committee

You will note that we now have two combined Committees: Anti-Racism/Human Rights Committee and Occupational Health and Safety/Workers' Compensation Committee as so many issues they deal with overlap.

Also, in our last few Committee calls, we had additional Committees listed to be filled but we never did receive enough names for them.

We will list them again and if we get enough names, we can certainly look at re-establishing them:

- Environment Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Technological Change Committee
- Committee to look at issues facing part-time/casual workers
- Youth Committee (must be 26 years old or younger)

We anticipate we will also establish 2 new committees, one looking at issues around Apprenticeship and Skilled Trades and a Pension Committee. If we get enough interest, those committees will also be established.

All letters of nomination are to be submitted from affiliated organizations and not the individual person.

Please note that all nominations should include the complete address/contact number of the submitting Local/Labour Council and the nominees complete address including postal code and telephone contact numbers must be included with the correspondence.

**The deadline for nominations is: November 30th, 2005.**

We require the cooperation of each and every Union Local/Labour Council to continue a successful Committee operation. We urge all affiliates to deal with this matter as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call our office.

## **Maude Barlow to address convention**

On Sunday, October 23rd, Council of Canadians National Chairperson Maude Barlow will speak to delegates at 7:30 pm in the Lake City Ballroom, Holiday Inn Harbourview, Dartmouth.

Ms. Barlow will talk about the Council's campaign to draw national attention to the dangers of Canada's increasingly close economic and political ties to the United States. Non-delegates are welcome to attend this event.

## **Reminders...**

- Resolutions must be in by September 23rd.
- Credentials are due by Monday, October 3rd.
- Book your hotel room by September 23rd. 1.888.434.0440 (toll-free). If you need more information, you can go on our website or call us:

**Nova Scotia Federation of Labour**, 3700 Kempt Rd., Suite 225, Halifax, N.S., B3K 4X8

902.454.6735 **phone**  
902.454.7671 **fax**  
nsfl@ns.aliantzinc.ca **email**  
www.nsfl.ns.ca **web**

# Do you go to Labour Council meetings?

Labour Councils are an important part of the labour movement. Made up of a coalition of local unions and a network of community activists at the community level, the members come together to share experiences and to ensure the voice of labour is heard at the community level. Labour Council delegates use their collective strength to carry out action to support the ongoing struggles of workers and their families.

In order for the Labour Councils to carry out their work, local unions must have delegates taking part in the Council and those delegates need the support of their unions.

We want strong, vibrant Labour Councils in our communities. We need to build participation and affiliation. Following is a list of Labour Councils and where and when they meet:

**Annapolis Valley** - 4th Monday of every month at 7 pm, 21 Webster St., Kentville

**Cape Breton District** - 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Steelworkers' Hall, Prince St., Sydney

**Cumberland District** - 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, Amherst Curling Club, Prince Arthur St., Amherst

**Halifax-Dartmouth and District** - 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Labour Temple, 3700 Kempt Rd., Halifax

**New Glasgow and District** - 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Steelworkers' Hall, Trenton

**South Shore** - 1st Monday of each month at 7 pm, CEP Hall, Liverpool

**Strait Area District** - 2nd Sunday of each month, 2 pm,

CEP Hall, Port Hawkesbury

**Truro and District** - 2nd Monday of each month at 7 pm, United Way Office, Truro

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## Support CBC!

We have written Prime Minister Paul Martin about the CBC lockout and we urge you to do the same. Here is the text of our letter. You can send it to him to him via fax: 613.941.6900, or mail it postage-free to: Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6.

“We are very concerned by the federal government’s silence towards the lock-out at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. How can the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation properly serve Canadians if it does not live by the values Canadians hold dear? The mandate of the CBC is to “safeguard, enrich and strengthen the cultural, political, social and economic fabric of Canada,” as stated in the *Broadcasting Act*. The senior managers at the CBC defeat the very meaning of this mandate of service when they demand that their employees entrench the worst features of the current job market into their collective agreement. To make matters worse, the senior managers, realizing they had also locked-out their audiences, misappropriated their public funding to advertise insults about their employees in private media

outlets. Despite your massive surpluses, you haven’t provided CBC with enough money to properly fulfill its mandate. The Heritage Committee has already told you that, but you ignored their recommendation for increased stable funding. Your government has also ignored pleas from CBC management for extra money needed to increase both Canadian drama and local programming. We would urge you to add and secure permanently \$60 million to the CBC’s annual budget that so far has been provided on a year-to-year basis. These measures would take away most of the excuses the senior managers at the CBC tend to use to justify the unjustifiable. In conclusion and more immediately, we urge you and your Ministers to raise your voice against the lock-out because the senior managers at the CBC are wrong to believe that Canadians will recognize themselves in news and cultural programs produced in exploitative conditions. This lockout has gone on far too long. We want you to provide CBC with the money it needs so that its employees can get back to work providing us with the quality Canadian programming we’ve come to expect on both radio and TV.”