

Summer 2006
Issue



Nova Scotia Federation of Labour **UPDATE**

Public panel puts 'Atlantica' Initiative on trial



A free public panel discussion entitled “Resisting Atlantica” is set to take place on Thursday, July 27, from 7pm - 9pm at the Halifax Main Branch Library on Spring Garden Road. This event is a joint project of the Canadian Labour Congress, Council of Canadians, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Nova Scotia Chapter, the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), and the Halifax Regional Libraries and a couple of activists who want to raise awareness in the Halifax area about this initiative.

The Atlantica Initiative, a trade campaign spearheaded by Atlantic Canada’s business leaders, is the next step on the regional level intended to further integrate Atlantic Canada into the global economy. Consequently, its full impact cannot be understood without viewing it through the

lens of the neoliberal, or free trade, globalization process being pushed by the United States. According to its leading proponent, the Halifax-based neo-conservative think tank Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS), one of the principal goals of the Atlantica Initiative is to “encourage inter-provincial and international trade through the removal of

region—has the potential to become an economic powerhouse, critics argue that Atlantica, much like its predecessor NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement), is not fundamentally about trade, which can have many benefits. Rather, it is about increasing profits for corporations, often at the



Left to right: June 10th Atlantica press conference in Saint John, New Brunswick: Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Labour President Reg Anstey; New Brunswick Federation of Labour President Michel Boudreau; Prince Edward Island Federation of Labour First Vice-President Blair Penny; Nova Scotia Federation of Labour Treasurer Ivy Shaw; CLC, Canadian Labour Congress Social and Economic Policy Department National Director Andrew Jackson.

barriers and harmonization of regulations.”

While proponents of Atlantica believe that Atlantic Canada—largely considered a ‘have-not’

expense of workers’ rights, social programs, and environmental protection.

The panel discussion on July 27th will consist of three speakers who will speak to the issue for 1 hour, followed by 40 minutes for question and answer, and then a 20 minute wrap-up discussion to talk about ways in which we can further respond to this threatening initiative. The speakers for the panel are: Garry Leech, to speak about the problems related to Atlantica; Cliff White, to make the connections with Atlantica and the whole issue of security/prosperity (part of deep integration with the US); and Janet Eaton who will speak about alternatives to Atlantica. Paulette Sadoway from the CLC will be the moderator.

Says Garry Leech, one of the panelists, in reference to the approach undertaken by the Atlantica Initiative, "The solutions to the region's economic malaise should not be determined un-democratically by a small group of corporate elites whose sole objective is to establish a free trade regime that ensures increased profits while workers continue to be forced to compete in a race to the bottom...this should occur in a participatory democratic manner that provides space for input from all sectors of society."

For more information contact:
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All out for the 7th Annual Labour Day March and Picnic!

Monday, September 4, 2006

**South Commons Triangle
(at the Willow Tree)**

10:30 am - Gather at the Commons

11:00 am - March around the Commons

12 noon - Picnic on the South Commons

Bring Union flags, banners, t-shirts, and most importantly your families, friends and co-workers! We will have games for kids, music AND free food and drinks

Please bring non-perishable food or cash donation for Feed Nova Scotia. The Food Bank will have a truck at the site to collect donations.

NSFL Off-Year Conference at the Delta Sydney

Friday, December 1st - evening

Saturday, December 2nd - all day

Sunday, December 3rd - 9 am - 2 pm

6th Annual Alex "Sugarcamp" MacDonald Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 9th, Dundee Golf Course, Cape Breton. For more information, call Ivy or Dave Shaw @ 826.9447 (home) or 233.3471 (cell)

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