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PRESS RELEASE from the N.S. Federation of Labour

Teaching students about health and safety is good news says Labour Federation

Halifax, N.S. - “The recent announcement by the departments of Education and Labour and Workforce Development that a pilot program will be in place in the coming school year for Grade 9 students to learn about the importance of respect for workplace health and safety and injury prevention is indeed good news and a good start,” a labour spokesperson said today.

Rick Clarke, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour stated “health and safety training within the education system has been a long-time goal for ours, as we firmly that the education of our youth on their rights and responsibilities regarding workplace health and safety must begin early, before they enter the workplace, and it must be ongoing.”

“We commend both departments for this initiative and we are hopeful it will help to reverse the trend of an increasing number of injuries to Nova Scotia workers younger than 20.” Clarke said.

“This increasing trend has been particularly alarming as it has been occurring while the overall number of workplace injuries is declining.

“We will work with government in supporting this pilot program with the obvious goal of seeing occupational healthy and safety training/education entrenched throughout our education system on an ongoing basis, as a vital tool to protecting our youth as they enter the workplace and to help establish the long talked about and much needed cultural change in awareness and commitment to good workplace health and safety .” Clarke said in conclusion.

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For more information, please contact Rick Clarke at 454.6735 (office) or 434.5612 (home)

The Nova Scotia Federation of Labour is the provincial voice of the Labour Movement, representing 70,000 members in over 400 union locals.

CAW Local 4005