



Nova Scotia  
Federation of Labour, CLC

October 3, 2011

## **Media Statement from the N.S. Federation of Labour President Rick Clarke**

### **Labour mourns the loss of a great labour leader – Nancy Riche**

**Halifax, N.S.** - On behalf of the 70,000 affiliated members of the NSFL, its affiliated member unions, and Executive Council, I would like to express great sadness at the passing of Nancy Riche, retired labour leader, New Democratic Party activist, feminist, human rights activist, and dear friend.

“This is indeed a great loss not only to the Labour Movement, but to every cause that Sister Riche gave her energy, passion and commitment to - which were many”, said Clarke.

“On October 1, we lost someone whose dedication to social justice and dignity for all made this country and indeed Nova Scotia a better place to live and work. Nancy made an immense contribution to workers’ rights and women’s equality in her many years in the labour movement,” said Clarke.

She got her start in the labour movement as a trade union activist with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees (NAPE). Nancy rose through the ranks of the Newfoundland and Labrador and Canadian labour movements, becoming one of the country’s most prominent labour leaders.

She retired from the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress in 2002. She had served in that position since 1999. Prior to that, she was Executive Vice-President for 13 years.

Riche’s diverse responsibilities include a number of the “hot button” issues facing the Canadian labour movement – health care, employment, insurance, privatization, women and human rights and political action. She retired from the CLC in 2002 and joyfully moved home to her beloved Newfoundland and Labrador. Since 2002, she was mainly involved in various volunteer activities – always the activist.

“Today we remember and mourn the loss of a great labour leader, activist, sister and a friend in Nancy Riche,” Clarke said in conclusion.

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

CAW Local 4005