



April 27, 2009

**Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, CLC
PRESS RELEASE**

Labour Federation calls on Government to make worker health and safety a top priority

Halifax, N.S. – Nova Scotia Federation of Labour Rick Clarke will speak at this year's Day of Mourning ceremony at Province House to remember, pay tribute to and mourn for the 29 Nova Scotian workers who lost their lives in 2008, the highest number since the Westray Disaster.

April 28, 2009 is the 25th anniversary of the Day of Mourning, yet over 1000 Canadians were killed at or because of work. In addition, almost 32,000 workers were injured on the job. Clearly more needs to be done to protect workers to ensure they are able to return home at the end of their day.

“After a quarter century of remembering and paying tribute to the thousand plus workers that have been killed at or because of work each year; we believe it is beyond the time for government to assume a more proactive role in protecting our workers,” Clarke said.

Enforcement of existing laws must be improved and new and improved health and safety regulations have to be established in a number of areas.

Clarke noted that Labour is calling for special prosecutors to be set up in each province and territory and at the federal level where appropriate. The task of these special prosecutors would be to investigate and lay criminal charges where it is found that employer's actions or inactions have resulted in serious injury or death.

“The Nova Scotia Government must assume a more proactive role in protecting our workers and put this at the top of its agenda. We call on Premier Rodney MacDonald to announce that a proper health and safety program in every Nova Scotia workplace is a priority.

“A person's life should not be at risk when they are at work. Every workplace death or injury is preventable. We are committed to continue our campaign for better enforcement of existing occupational health and safety legislation and for stronger legislation to ensure every Nova Scotian will come home from work, injury-free,” said Clarke in conclusion.

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

An agenda of province-wide events is attached. The Halifax ceremony is at 11 am at Province House.

NSFL UPDATE



April 2009

April 28 - National Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job

On April 28, we gather with fellow workers, friends and family members to remember our brothers and sisters killed or injured on the job, and re-commit to making our workplaces safer for everyone. In 2008, 29 workers lost their lives, this is the most since the Westray Disaster. There will be events held around the province to commemorate the Day of Mourning on April 28 - The following are events we have been informed about as of today:

Halifax - The Nova Scotia Federation of Labour will host a ceremony at 11 am to 12 noon at Province House, Halifax, on the grounds by the plaque that was erected in 2002 beside the maple tree, also planted in 2002. If the weather is bad, the ceremony will be held in Province House. After the speakers, you are invited to lay a wreath on behalf of your organization, family member or friend. Contact the Federation office at 454.6735 or nsfl@ns.aliantzinc.ca

The South Shore Labour Council is having a ceremony and candlelight vigil at 7 pm at the Kinsmen Hall, 1153 King St. in Bridgewater. For more information, contact Labour Council President Bud Johnson @ 902.627.1986 or budjohnson@ns.sympatico.ca (no wreath-laying). Guest speaker: Worker Counsellor Jessie Parkinson. Refreshments will be served afterward.

The Cape Breton District Labour Council is holding a ceremony at 11 am at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 128, 10 Wesley St. in Sydney.

Wreaths or floral bouquets must be delivered by 10:30 am on April 28 from any local florist. Cape Breton Centre NDP MLA Frank Corbett is the guest speaker.

A light lunch will be served after the ceremony. For more information, please call Labour Council President Gary Fukala @ 902.842.1015 or gfkala002@ns.sympatico.ca

The Annapolis Valley Labour Council - is having a ceremony at 7 pm at Centre Square in Kentville. People are invited to lay a wreath on behalf of their organization, family member or friend. After the ceremony, there will be a reception at the Labour Council Office, 362 Main St., Kentville. If you cannot attend, please forward the name of those you mourn on April 28th to be acknowledged at the service. For more information, please contact Suzanne Stewart at 902.542.9487 (home) or suzanne.stewart@acadiou.ca or deantupper@xcountry.tv.

The Strait Area Labour Council is hosting a ceremony at 7 pm at the CEP Hall in Port Hawkesbury (next to Dairy Queen) on 323 Reeves St. Guest speakers and a reception to follow. For more information, please call Labour Council President Joey Benoit at 902.625.2905 (no wreath-laying).

In Pictou County, there will be a Day of Mourning Ceremony held at Trenton Park at 6 pm with a wreath-laying ceremony. Contact Becky at 1.902.695.7249.



Mourn for the dead. Fight for the living, now more than ever!

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