



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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Common Front NL delivers budget message to Government

St. John's - Today, representatives of Common Front NL met with the provincial Finance Minister and government officials to deliver a vision for a strong economy and the upcoming budget.

Mary Shortall, Chair of Common Front NL and President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL), said, "The Government needs to focus more on building a strong economy and meeting the needs of citizens of this province. That means a fairer and equal society that looks after all of us and grows the economy at the same time. The 2017 budget will be key to setting a course for the future, and this time they need to get it right."

Government officials prepared budget options several months in advance of the budget release in the spring. The April 2016 budget was extremely controversial, resulting in mass demonstrations and a very rare government back-down on a key budget item – the regressive deficit reduction levy.

Alex Noel, Common Front NL Executive member and Chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students Newfoundland and Labrador (CFS-NL), said "Through Common Front NL, I spoke with a number of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians from many walks of life in Town Hall meetings around the province. Voters are very engaged and are watching the government closely. They want education and other key public services to be accessible to all. We need to make it possible for young people to stay here. Spending cuts would take us in the wrong direction."

Lana Payne, Common Front NL Executive member and Atlantic Director of Unifor, said, "For a strong economic future, we need a good jobs strategy that includes maximizing value from our resources and ensuring more of our GDP stays in Newfoundland and Labrador. And we must use every tool we have, legislatively and otherwise, to ensure that happens. The next generation is counting on us to get it right."

Common Front NL is a broad based coalition of labour, community, social justice groups and concerned citizens representing over 100,000 Newfoundlanders & Labradorians. It will release a report in December summarizing a new vision for a stronger economy, and concrete steps toward that vision.

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For further comment, contact:

- Mary Shortall (709) 699-3112
- Alex Noel (709) 737-3204
- Lana Payne (709) 743-5343