



## **2016 Labour Day message from the President of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour**

***For Immediate Release***

**August 29, 2016**

It is my pleasure on behalf of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour, and our 40,000 affiliates, to wish all New Brunswickers a Happy Labour Day!

Labour Day is more than a day off. It is a day to reflect on the important role that workers play in the economy and in society. It is also a day to reflect on the gains made over the years and to discuss the work that remains to be done.

These gains were achieved through the hard work, sacrifices and solidarity of working people and their unions. Some examples include the 40-hour work week, paid vacation time and maternity/parental leave benefits. These benefits and protections have been part of our workplaces for several decades now. Most of us do not realize that working people and their unions had to work hard to obtain them.

The work of unions today is no less important. Today's unions are focussed on bringing workers together and providing them with the tools that they need to make further improvements to their working conditions. For example, after nearly a decade of hard work, Canada's unions recently won the first expansion of Canada Pension Plan retirement benefits in fifty years. Nobody should struggle to make ends meet after a lifetime of work. The improvements to the CPP will help more Canadians to retire in dignity.

Unions are also working to make sure that a 40-hour work-week does not leave workers living in poverty. Too many workers, especially young workers, have to work long hours in order to make ends meet and have little time to spend with their family and friends. We've learned the hard way that good jobs don't just happen. They need to be grown and nurtured.

This Labour Day weekend, let's remember the working people who stood together to obtain the good working conditions that we enjoy today. Let's also take a moment to realize that by working together now, we can protect these gains and continue to improve the lives of New Brunswick workers.

One way you can get involved is by attending one of the Labour Day events organized throughout the province. A complete listing of Labour Day events is available on the New Brunswick Federation of Labour web site at: [www.nbfl-fttnb.ca](http://www.nbfl-fttnb.ca).

Sincerely,

Patrick Colford, President New Brunswick Federation of Labour

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