

NBFL Blair Doucet Summer Camp: Participants learn about solidarity

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Last week, from August 1 to 5th, the New Brunswick Federation of Labour hosted its 16th annual Blair Doucet Youth Summer Camp (BDYSC) at the Moncton campus of l'Université de Moncton. Although the camp had less campers than in past years, it was a resounding success. It saw 16 campers come together from across the province: 7 boys and 9 girls.

“Many of the youth tell us that they look forward to attending this camp every year, that it is the best part of their summer. Year after year that they feel the spirit of the camp founder, my Dad, Blair Doucet, at camp,” says Paula Doucet, BDYSC camp coordinator and Second Vice-President with the New Brunswick Federation of Labour. “It makes me so proud to see the youth grow as leaders and learn about solidarity and the labour movement as my Dad had envisioned so many years ago,” adds Doucet.

On Thursday, following their workshop on sweatshops, BDYSC participants made a video about what they learned. The video was posted on Facebook and already had over 2,600 views, less than 24 hours later.

“I am very proud of the young adults at camp this year. They are caring and accomplished individuals,” says Patrick Colford, President of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour. “I also wanted to say a special thank you to the camp counsellors who generously give their time. Without them, this camp would not be possible.”

In the mornings, camp participants learned about their rights as workers, the history of the labour movement and the role it plays in society, sweatshops and health and safety in the workplace. The afternoons were focussed on team-building exercises and fun activities.

“I want to thank the parents for sharing their sons and daughters with us this week,” says Paula Doucet at the camp’s closing ceremony, “I want to express publicly my gratitude to the unions, the Canadian Labour Congress and individuals that contribute to and support the camp. My father's dream has become a reality because of them.”

Blair Doucet, NBFL President from 1999 to 2005, founded the camp. He believed that the union movement should be brought to the youth of the province. Doucet passed away in February 2009. The summer camp is named in his memory.

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Here is the [link](#) to the video made by the BDYSC participants.

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