

## **NLEC Executive Director Richard Alexander to address Business Association of NL tomorrow on high tax on labour in this province**

*--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*September 20, 2010, St. John's, NL* – NL Employers' Council (NLEC) Executive Director Richard Alexander will speak at a Business Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (BANL) luncheon tomorrow, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 pm at the Battery Hotel, to discuss the high tax on labour in Newfoundland & Labrador and its effect on doing business in this province.

In this province, tax on labour refers to the Health & Post Secondary Education Tax (payroll tax), employer Worker's Compensation insurance premiums, EI and CPP. These costs to employers are based directly on the level of wages an employer provides, effectively increasing the cost of labour. Newfoundland & Labrador currently has the highest tax on labour of any province in Atlantic Canada. Newfoundland & Labrador is the only province in Atlantic Canada that still has a payroll tax and employer Workers' Compensation premiums are the highest of any province. Add this to government's recent increases in the minimum wage, and the combined impact of these costs present a significant disincentive for employers to grow employment levels in this province. Managing these costs is the number one concern for NLEC members. The organization has been lobbying the provincial government for change on these issues, and will inform BANL members of their work and how to get involved.

The NLEC will be gathering evidence of the impact tax on labour has on businesses and the local economy through focus groups being held across the province over the course of the next few months. The first of these focus groups will take place in Labrador City on October 7<sup>th</sup> and in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Media are invited to attend the BANL luncheon tomorrow at 12:00 pm at the Battery Hotel to hear more about this issue.

**Interview opportunities will be available. Please confirm attendance.**

**-30-**

*The NLEC provides advocacy, communication and training for its members on matters that affect the employment relationship.*

*For more information visit [www.nlec.nf.ca](http://www.nlec.nf.ca).*

**Media contact:** *Jaclyn Sullivan (o) 368-6532 x 225; (m) 687-6552 or [jsullivan@nlec.nf.ca](mailto:jsullivan@nlec.nf.ca).*