

Understanding labour standards legislation an issue for employers in NL
NLEC to hold half day workshop to address grey areas for employers and discuss increases in minimum wage

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2010, St. John's, NL – The NL Employers' Council (NLEC) will be holding a half day workshop at the Comfort Inn Airport in St. John's on Tuesday, June 9th to address employers concerns regarding labour standards legislation and its implication in the workplace.

“We get numerous calls from employers with questions on areas related to the employment relationship but not outlined in the Labour Standards Act,” says NLEC Executive Director, Richard Alexander. This workshop will go beyond the basics to outline the grey areas of the Labour Standards Act and what to do in areas where the Act is silent. The session will address challenging issues surrounding terminations, leave and benefits, hours of work, statutory holidays and more. “There are often unique and complex issues that employers have to deal with in these areas. The NLEC can provide assistance to employers in dealing with these situations beyond what is outlined in the labour standards legislation.”

Alexander will also speak to employers at this session about a labour standards issue that is currently impacting many employers in the province - minimum wage legislation. On July 1st minimum wage will rise to \$10/ hour, marking the final increase in a two year plan by government to raise the province's minimum wage from \$8/hour to \$10/hour, a full 25% over a two year period. Employers are concerned with this rapid increase in minimum wage and the pressure these increases are putting on wages well above minimum wage. Alexander will discuss these impacts with employers, inform them of the NLEC's advocacy work to halt further increases in minimum wage, and encourage local employers to get involved in the organization's work on this issue.

The NLEC offers an advisory service to employers providing free information, assistance and advice to all employers in the province on workers' compensation, occupational health and safety, claims management, and appeals. The NLEC also provides help to members on labour relations, labour standards and human resource management issues. The session will be facilitated by Alexander and will include presentations by Ron Croucher, Labour Standards Officer for the Labour Standards Division and Jennifer Bradbury, Employer Advisor for the NLEC.

The NLEC session “**An Introduction to Labour Standards...and Beyond**” will be held Tuesday, June 8th, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Comfort Inn Airport in St. John's. For more information and to register, employers should visit www.nlec.nf.ca.

-30-

Interview Opportunities Available - Please Contact to Arrange

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