



CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF NURSES UNIONS
LA FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE
DES SYNDICATS D'INFIRMIÈRES
ET INFIRMIERS

"together FAIRNESS WORKS" – on Labour Day and every day of the year!

Labour Day comes after a long summer break and at a time when families are focused on getting back to school rather than reflecting on the meaning of worker's rights, equity or fairness. As union activists we know these struggles are ongoing and past victories are no excuse to become complacent.

This year nurses unions are pleased to join the Canadian Labour Congress in the launch of labour's new "together FAIRNESS WORKS" campaign. It is more important than ever to ensure Canadians hear these deeper messages related to the need for a strong labour movement and protection of workers rights.

Today we are faced with a federal government that is increasingly willing to attack hard-won and bargained positions, in order to score political points with their base. We have a government that is comfortable pitting Canadians against Canadians in a race to the bottom rather than seeking ways to raise the bar for all. We have a government that is actively seeking more ways to outsource Canadian jobs rather than building up our local communities. We are facing some provincial governments that fail to implement alternate strategies to ongoing fiscal challenges other than to cut budgets and programs that support the most vulnerable.

Nurses know the consequences of these political attacks and of not striving for fairness in Canadian society: we see it everyday. Addictions, poverty, domestic abuse – these are symptoms of the lack of fairness we see on the front lines as we deliver health care to those in need. With increases in inequality, the health of patients we treat is directly impacted and worsens. If attacks on labour rights result in degraded working conditions and increasingly unsafe staffing levels, it becomes more and more difficult for nurses to deliver the quality of care that we know Canadians deserve and that we have been educated to deliver.

This is why nurses are part of the labour movement, to ensure that our patients get the care they deserve but also that all workers, including nurses, are treated fairly. We are part of the labour movement because we know that when we work together, as a community, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish. Together FAIRNESS WORKS!

In solidarity always,

Linda Silas, President of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions