

May 1, 2013

Honourable David Alward
Centennial Building
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 5H1

and

Honourable Kathy Dunderdale
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1B 4J6

Honourable Darrell Dexter
One Government Place, 7th Floor
1700 Granville Street
PO Box 726
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T3

and

Honourable Robert Ghiz
Shaw Building, 5th Floor South
95 Rochford Street
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
C1A 7N8

CUPE welcomes Premiers united position opposing EI changes

Dear Premiers:

It is with great pleasure that we learned of the united efforts launched between all Atlantic premiers to counter the negative impacts that the Harper government's changes to Employment Insurance are having on workers in the Atlantic region. Your joint demand for a suspension of the EI cuts will add to the pressure put on the federal government to reconsider its reform. Thank you for the public stand you have taken on an issue that is affecting workers all across Canada.

The federal government decided to implement changes to EI without real consultation with stakeholders and without any analysis of the consequences of the reform on the workforce and the economy. Your common front decision to conduct a comprehensive study of the impacts of the EI changes on Atlantic workers will also be extremely useful.

To maximize the weight of such a study, we think it is important to ensure that the composition of the review committee be balanced. To that effect, we strongly suggest that a representative of the labour movement be appointed to that panel. For the good of the workers in the Atlantic region, we are confident that you will unanimously agree on the legitimacy of that request.

We also recommend that this study be conducted in an open way, with public consultation meetings being held in all regions of the four Atlantic provinces. Citizens and groups must have a voice, both at public meetings and through written briefs.

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PAUL MOIST – National President / Président national **CHARLES FLEURY** – National Secretary-Treasurer / Secrétaire-trésorier national**TOM GRAHAM** – **FRED HAHN** – **DANIEL LÉGÈRE** – **LUCIE LEVASSEUR** – **BARRY O'NEILL** – General Vice-Presidents / Vice-présidents généraux

Finally, the review panel study should include recommendations on how to strengthen the EI system for the benefits of workers – especially women – their families and their communities. CUPE will be pleased to contribute its views on how to improve EI during that consultation process.

In closing, we want to assure you that you can count on CUPE and its members to continue political action regionally and nationally with the objective of scrapping the EI changes imposed by the Harper Conservative government.

Yours truly,



PAUL MOIST
CUPE National President



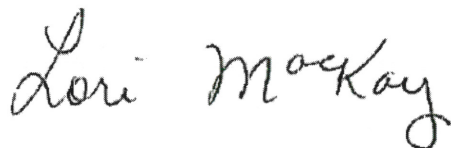
DANNY CAVANAGH
President, CUPE Nova Scotia



DANIEL LÉGÈRE
President, CUPE New Brunswick



WAYNE LUCAS
President, CUPE Newfoundland
and Labrador



LORI MacKAY
President, CUPE Prince Edward Island

:ms/cope 491

c.c.: C. Fleury