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A Call to Action for All Stakeholders of Skills Task Force Report
--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10th, 2007, St. John's, NL – The Newfoundland & Labrador Employers' Council has long been stressing the need to find solutions to this province's growing problem of skilled labour shortages. With a major demographic shift and large scale projects on the horizon for this province, the recommendations brought forth today by the Skills Task Force will go a long way in bringing about a variety of solutions to address these critical issues.

“Employers in this province have long been communicating to us the critical need to identify and address the crucial shortages that are continuing to grow in the labour market”, commented Marilyn Tucker, President of the Employers' Council. “We have employers who, for a variety of reasons, have been unable to attract and retain employees, particularly those in rural areas of the province. How are we to evolve if we are unable to meet industry demand and labour supply needs?” Tucker further added.

Today's report brings together a better understanding of what is needed to turn the situation around. This report is the result of a combined effort comprised of industry, labour, government, and educators – the primary stakeholders of the system.

“The stakeholders have been tasked with fifty key actions, and this list is expected to grow. Now, the real work begins. If we maintain the status quo, the situation is going to be further exacerbated. We will continue to lose our people to Alberta and lose out on opportunities to inform our youth and those in the labour market about where the jobs are. We cannot hamper the economy of this province with so many opportunities on the horizon”, concluded Tucker.

The Newfoundland & Labrador Employers' Council is the lead business advocacy group on labour and employment-related issues in this province.

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