

NLDL Monthly News Letter
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Year in Review
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Newfoundland and Labrador Defense League (NLDL)



Newfoundland and Labrador – Make it Yours

www.nldl.org

Our newsletter is a little early this month but with the Christmas season upon us we thought it might be nice to wish you all happy holidays and to take a moment to reflect on the year just ending.

It's been an extremely busy time for the entire NLDL team. In four months we have grown from a small band of 7 to a group of more than 40. We've tackled a number of issues and just this week we capped off the year by partnering with several groups on a new initiative for our province that included the launch of a youth oriented web site, WeStand.ca. A special note of thanks to NLDL member Ray Johnson and Rex Goudie for their work on the initiative and adding their "star power" to the cause.

Not a bad note to go out on for 2006 and we truly believe that 2007 will bring even more activity and progress. Here's a quick recap of the past few months.

NLDL in the News:

Early on we realized that we couldn't be very effective if nobody knew who we were. With this in mind NLDL went on a media blitz this year including multiple appearances on **VOCM Open Line** programs, an article in the **Evening Telegram**, two interview segments for **CBC Radio's - The Morning Show** and several letters in the newspaper **The Independent**. Capping it all off was the press conference held on December 20th at Signal Hill, where Ray Johnson joined Rex Goudie and members of NLDL, CLCC, FINALY and the Young Farmers Forum to speak with our youth about taking pride in our province and finding ways to live and work right here at home.

Funding Woes and Opportunities:

While investigating how we could register as a non-profit organization NLDL discovered that the federal government doesn't appreciate it when the public speaks out. It seems Revenue Canada doesn't allow groups like NLDL to register for non-profit status. The following is a quote from the Revenue Canada website on Non-profit qualification: "... may not espouse, promote, support or seek to achieve any political agenda, party, purpose or doctrine, nor may your organization seek to persuade the public to adopt a particular social view or attempt to bring about or oppose changes in the law or government policy."

Undaunted, our members stepped up with contributions allowing us to register our internet domain name, keep our web site operational, pay for postal services, pay the monthly fees on our bank account, purchase some signage, access information under the freedom of information act and have hats and T-Shirts made up, etc. One of those hats was presented to Rex Goudie as a thank-you for his appearance and there are some available on our web site as a little incentive to help with future fund raising efforts. (*They make a great belated Christmas gift by the way*) We appreciate every gift, especially the help given by NLDL member Ward Pike who bailed us out by ensuring that Rex made it to the news conference in the nick of time. Thanks Ward. Your generosity is inspiring.

Tackling the Issues – NLDL Takes a Stand

(For a full transcript of the following items send your request to: nldl_nl@yahoo.com)

October 2006:

NLDL issues a press release on equalization reforms.

NLDL contacts Fisheries Minister to request backing for UN sponsored moratorium on high seas bottom dragging.

NLDL issues press release on the Lower Churchill power project.

NLDL followed up on the Lower Churchill by contacting the Premier to formally request a cost-benefit analysis on retaining power for local industry development. This resulted in a letter from Minister Kathy Dunderdale (available on our web site). In early December NLDL responded to the Minister's letter requesting specific clarifications on her points. We are awaiting a response.

NLDL contacts federal Fisheries Minister regarding documents that outline cuts to DFO. We have also followed up on the request and are STILL awaiting a response.

NLDL joined forces with local individuals and groups to help combat the ability of seal protest groups to skew the truth. (Check out thesealfishery.com) it's a great site.

November 2006

NLDL shows support for "Newfoundlanders and Labradorians Against Student Debt". Spearheaded by NLDL member Travis Parsons, this group is lobbying the provincial government to ease the burden on university graduates by dispensing with interest charges applied to student loans.

NLDL makes a submission to government for consideration in developing the Labrador Transportation Plan.

Internal Activities:

Since its formation NLDL members have been busy planning our direction, setting up the member's forum, developing internal guidelines, preparing position points, developing the nldl.org website, promoting NLDL in the media and more. There are new members joining our ranks on an almost daily basis and we've begun to network quite effectively with other NL groups.

A big thank-you to all of you for standing up and making sure your voice is heard!!

Our membership now boasts people from all walks of life and from various parts of the province, the Maritimes and even in Ontario and Quebec including IT professionals; fishermen, a linguistics expert; web designers; creative writers; photographers; researchers; marketing people; a logistics expert; a biologist; a sub-sea industrial specialist; a youth development coordinator; entrepreneurs, musicians, a union leader, a lawyer and many, many more. It's this kind of diversity that will guide us in our efforts and strengthen our abilities in the years ahead.

The NLDL.org web site went live in November. A special thank-you to member John Feltham who did a great job with the design and development and to member Darren Fancey for the great photo collage displayed on the site. Also in November NLDL set up a postal address and bank account at the Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union. As a Newfoundland and Labrador focused group we felt that making use of this local institution for our banking needs was the way to go. The account is active and is being managed by members Darren Fancey and Myles Higgins.

In order to allow members of the public to more easily reach us and join our ranks, the **NLDL** has setup a standard postal address. We hope to also provide direct phone services once our financial situation permits.

In late November members in the St. John's area got together for our very first "face to face" meeting. It was great to finally put some faces with the names and the 10 or so members in attendance couldn't have been more up beat about what we are doing and where we can take this in future. We hope to schedule another meeting after the Christmas holidays so stay tuned for the time and place. While we would have liked to get all our members together the vast distances we live from each other would not allow it.

Believe it or not the activities included in this newsletter are just the beginning for us and we couldn't even find room to include everything that's happened, just the high points. Thanks everyone for a great start to our efforts and let's keep the momentum going strong into next year.

In closing we would like to once again wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years. Remember, stay safe, always appreciate any good fortune that comes your way and let's keep a warm thought in our hearts for the great successes we'll share in 2007.

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*The **NLDL** was formed in 2006 and is a non-profit organization made up of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians from across Canada and around the world. The **NLDL** is dedicated to the planning, development and promotion of initiatives for the empowerment of the Newfoundland and Labrador people. The **NLDL** is not affiliated with, or funded by, any political party.*

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