



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 3, 2020**

**Grieg terminated workers shortly after Labour Board breaches privacy rights.  
Carpenters Union files complaint against Grieg alleging unfair labour practices.**

Paradise – The worst fears of the NL Carpenters Union, Local 579 and organized labour in the province may be happening in Marystown. Within hours of the unlawful actions of the Labour Relations Board, Grieg NL Development Ltd. (Grieg NL) started terminating workers. These terminations were abrupt, without cause and there was no prior indication of a construction slow down or lack of work on the construction project.

Yesterday, NL Carpenters Local 579 filed a complaint with the Labour Relations Board against Grieg NL alleging the company has attempted to interfere with the formation of a trade union by using membership evidence obtained unlawfully from the Labour Relations Board. The complaint also alleges that Grieg NL sought by intimidation, threats, and terminations to compel persons to refrain from becoming or being a member of the Union.

The Union is asking the Labour Relations Board to investigate why workers were terminated by Grieg NL within a matter of hours and days of having received an email from the Labour Relations Board, containing the names of workers expressing an interest in having a union represent them at the Grieg worksite. These layoffs occurred during the statutory freeze period where employers are not permitted to hire, fire, lay off employees or make any changes to work conditions. The breach of privacy by the Board and subsequent rapid terminations by the Employer must be properly investigated.

Mike Williams, President of NL Carpenters Local 579 says, “what we feared would happen as a result of the breach of privacy appears now to be happening. Workers at Grieg NL that expressed an interest in being represented by the union are being threatened, intimidated and some have lost their jobs shortly after the company received membership evidence from the Labour Relations Board. This is unacceptable and the Board must act quickly to address this serious matter.”

“The Board and the legislation are supposed to protect the rights of workers in this province and enable them to freely choose union representation without fear of reprisal or undue interference. This is not happening at the Grieg NL site in Marystown,” says Williams.

- 30-

**Media Contact:**

Sean Kelly, APR, FCPRS  
Cell: 709-764-7326

Email: [sean@kellycommunications.ca](mailto:sean@kellycommunications.ca)