Firefighters and residents of Fredericton gathered together on April 28th to remember workers killed on the job at the Fallen Firefighters’ Monument on the south bank of the Saint John River. They included Frank, a labour activist and University of New Brunswick Fredericton, spoke at the event. “This day is here to remind us that death, disability, and disease are part of the story of the Canadian workplace,” said Frank. “The numbers are astonishing. Every day, year in and year out, almost three Canadian lives are claimed by workplace injuries.” Photo by Ethan Haslett.

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**Community Calendar**

For details and updated event listings, visit nbmedia.coop. To list your event or to receive the community calendar by email once per week, email: communitycalendar@coop.org.

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**Investigative Journalism Workshop** with award-winning broadcast journalist, Michele Mitchell. Tues, May 17, 12pm-2pm, Gallery Connection, 440 York St., Fredericton. $10 per person. Register at galleryconnection.ca.

**Haiti, Aid and Imperialism.** Tues, May 17, 7pm, Cedar Tree Café, 418 Queen St., Fredericton. Film Screening of Haiti: Where did the money go? Join Michele Mitchell for a screening and discussion. Also includes the launch of Paved with Good Intentions: Join Dr. Gia Jay and members of the Westin Avenue Sunflower Collective to support popular demands for democratic reforms and wealth redistribution. Contact: info@federicopeace.org

**International Day Against Homophobia Film Screening.** AIDS NB and NB Film Co-op present the film, We Were Here. Thurs, May 17, 7pm at the Charlotte Street Arts Centre, 723 Charlotte St., Fredericton. Grind Out Homophobia/Skate Bash. AIDS NB presents a skate bash at the Fred Pitre Memorial skateboard in Bathurst on May 17, 6 to 8pm. There will be a free BBQ, music, cake prize giveaways, skateboard demonstrations by the local Skateboarder Hall of Fame. Contact: info@aisdnb.org

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**Union Organizing Raymond Tavel**

Mario Fortunato, United Steelworker organizer based in Fredericton, travels across the country supporting workers in their struggles to unionize their workplaces on the picket line. Photo courtesy of Mario Fortunato.

(continued from page 1) St. Thomas University is in union, I can assure you they have given some thought as to whether or not a union would be of value to them. More generally, union workers earn 44% more than non-union workers – that’s significant. Employers know this – that’s why they fight unions tooth and nail and do everything they can to convince workers that unions only make things worse!

CW: Since the last federal election we have seen back-to- work legislation used twice on the pretext that our “fragile economic recovery” cannot handle such disruptions. What do you make of this?

MF: You need to understand that the law isn’t static. It’s always changing. The democratic process is the means by which various groups in society attempt to change aspects of the law to better suit their interests. For example, when the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) passed, capital threw a party. The industrial base in Canada was gutted and for those occupations that remained, just the threat of relocating to Mexico was enough to keep workers in place. As of today, public sector unions represent the largest section of organised labour in Canada and as such they are the single, best obstacle to the two-lobal privatization and deregulation agenda. So naturally, capital wants to crush them. By taking away their legal right to withdraw labour – in other words, their only serious weapon to use against management – it’s easy to cut the union off at the knees. In some ways this radical anti- union politics is, actually becoming. You see it in Greece, Britain, Canada, and in the US. Since the legal way of resolving disputes is no longer functioning, workers are going on strike, blockades are being called and so on. The way to return to the lawlessness and despotism of 1920s labour relations is where we are now. And it’s only just beginning. So, we’ll see where this leads – interesting times lie ahead.

CW: If someone who wanted to get more information on this topic could contact you, who would you advise they contact? The best place to start is on the Internet. Every union has a good website. Do your research, find out what union would be best for your work place and call an organizer. It’s not easy and it’s not for the faint of heart. There’s a lot of work to do and a lot of work to be done.

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**Membership Options**

- $3/month
- 10/month
- $25/month
- $10/year
- $25/year
- $50/year
- Other

I would like to be a member, but I cannot be a sustained at this time.

**Payment Options**

- Please send me an application form to establish monthly pre- authorized payments from my bank account.
- Please mail application forms and cheques to the NB Media Co-op at 180 St. John Street, Fredericton, NB E3B 4A9. Thank you!