

The Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations presents the Prix Nicole Raymond Award to Professor Greg Allain and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE-NB)

May 13, 2024, Fredericton, NB — The Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations (FNBFA) bestows its annual Prix Nicole Raymond Award on a New Brunswick individual, group or organization in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the advancement of the labour movement, or to the improvement of post-secondary education in New Brunswick.

The award is presented by the Federation in memory of Nicole Raymond, a late professor at the Université de Moncton who distinguished herself through the quality of her teaching and research, as well as her involvement in numerous professional associations.

The President of the FNBFA, Hector Guy Adégbidi, stated at the Federation's May 9, 2024, Annual General Meeting, that Professor Greg Allain deserves to be recognized as an individual, and CUPE-NB as an organization, both according to the letter and spirit of the award.

Dr. Allain, now retired, led a life of union activism, accumulating positions during his university career as president of the ABPPUM (the faculty association of the Moncton campus of the Université de Moncton), as a member of the Executive Committee including as President of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, where he also spearheaded initiatives that led to the full recognition and inclusion of francophone issues in the country's university sector.

Dr. Allain has also made an important scholarly contribution to the history of the public university union sector in New Brunswick and the country in particular, as well as to the broader labour history of Acadians, New Brunswickers and Canadians.

As for CUPE-NB, in 2021 it engaged in an epic battle with its employer, the New Brunswick government, including a 16-day strike by 22,000 of its members in the hospital and long-term care systems, community colleges and schools. It was the largest strike in the country that year. CUPE-NB achieved significant gains, such as preventing the employer's planned wage freeze in the first year of the contract, coupled with a 1% annual increase cap, as well as securing a fair deal on pensions.

The strike and the gains achieved by CUPE-NB were certainly a source of inspiration for the entire New Brunswick labour sector and were observed across the country, at that time, waiting to see how they would unfold and what the possible consequences would be on the national scene.

About the FNBFA

The Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations represents the interests of approximately 1,500 professors, contract academic staff, librarians, and researchers at six campuses of the province's four public universities. It advocates the advancement of their profession, the protection of the institutional autonomy of universities and academic freedom and aims to improve the quality of post-secondary education and research in the province.

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