

# HALIFAX WORKERS' ACTION CENTRE

Educate. Agitate. Organize.



## BREAKING THE SILENCE WITH **WENDY MENDEZ**

On June 4th, alongside human rights activist and popular educator Wendy Mendez, the Halifax WAC participated in a speaking tour presented by the Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network. Wendy is the daughter of Luz Haydee Mendez Calderon, who was forcibly disappeared by the Guatemalan Army in 1984. She spoke about her experience bringing her mother's case before the national courts of Guatemala and the barriers to justice for the her and other plaintiffs.

WAC volunteer lawyer, Katrin MacPhee, spoke at the event about the issue of access to justice, the importance of fair processes, and the administrative barriers currently preventing workers from making effective use of Nova Scotia's human rights tribunal.

## MEET THE WAC: **EMMA LUTZ**

Emma is a second-year law student at Dalhousie University. She comes to us after working extensively with the Dalhousie Legal Aid Service's Tenants' Rights Project. While working with tenants in Nova Scotia, she saw how low-income and marginalized people often face dual barriers in their access to both tenancy *and* employment justice. This inspired her to spend her summer with the Halifax WAC assisting workers in their struggles against abusive and exploitative employers.

"Since beginning at the WAC, I have witnessed first-hand how essential their services are in Nova Scotia given the shocking lack of support for workers, inadequate protections, and inefficient legal and administrative systems," says Emma.

Emma's work has been enormously helpful to our organization and the people we assist. Thank you, Emma!



# 60%

**of Halifax WAC callers have just lost their jobs. This includes layoffs, wrongful dismissals, and unbearable workplace situations that have forced them to quit.**

**Did you know** that most workers who call the Halifax WAC are recently unemployed, and at no fault of their own? Stressed by financial hardship and daunted by convoluted legal processes, the WAC is one of the few resources they can turn to.

"Even with a full-time job and a steady income, lawyers in Nova Scotia are unaffordable," says Lisa Cameron, Halifax WAC organizer. "Wealth shouldn't be a prerequisite for justice. Basic legal information should always be within reach."

The Halifax WAC helps workers position their struggle within the context of Nova Scotia employment law. We offer ongoing support to help them pursue the justice they deserve.

## UNITED STEELWORKERS SUPPORT WAC

The Halifax WAC recently received a donation from the United Steelworkers (USW) District 6. Their generous contribution will help us keep up with the growing demand for our services - **thank you!**

"We are pleased to show support for the Halifax Workers' Action Centre," says Myles Sullivan, Director of USW District 6. "As unionized workers, we want to help our non-union friends who lack the protections and benefits we've been able to win ourselves. The Halifax WAC does tremendous work advocating for vulnerable workers. I encourage other unions to support them as well."

The Halifax WAC is grateful to the United Steelworkers and everyone who helps sustain us. You keep us going.



## DONATE TODAY

To keep going and growing, **we need your help.** Become a supporter via PayPal by clicking [here](#), and receive:

- Updates about upcoming event
- An invite to our Annual General Meeting
- A **free** piece of Halifax WAC merchandise per year

Contributions can also be made via our GoFundMe page [here](#).

*To enquire about other methods, please call us at 902-221-0755 or email [halifaxwac@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxwac@gmail.com).*