



THE ACCENT

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees
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Funding: 2009 Police and Peace Officers Memorial Service

Funding available to attend the 2009 Police and Peace Officers Memorial Service

This is the twelfth year that UPSE and the Community and Correctional Services Division (Office of the Attorney General) will co-sponsor attendance to the Police and Peace Officers Memorial Service in Ottawa. The memorial service honours police and peace officers who sacrificed their lives to keep our communities safe. The service also provides an opportunity for participants to engage in networking and professional development activities.



Application process

Peace Officers (Office of the Attorney General) and Highway Safety Officers (Department of Transportation and Public Works) are eligible to attend and must complete an application form available at the UPSE office, website (peiupse.ca), or respective workplace. Applicants must also be UPSE members in good standing. Completed applications are to be returned to the UPSE office no later than August 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

As in the past, representatives at the memorial service will also be attending the preceding conference hosted by the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE). A driver and a maximum of five representatives will be selected to attend. Representatives will depart on September 23, 2009 and return the evening of September 28, 2009.

Accommodations are provided by UPSE. Van transportation will be provided by Community and Correctional Services and two (2) days paid leave (for scheduled shifts) will be provided by the employees' respective work sites. The balance of time is to be taken by employees as vacation, time-in-lieu or leave without pay.

Call for nominations: 1st and 3rd Vice President

The Union is calling for nominations for elections of the executive (1st and 3rd Vice President). The Executive Nominations Committee shall receive nominations from the membership at large and will review and establish the credentials of each member nominated for election to executive office. The committee shall be responsible for reporting the names of all eligible nominations to the annual convention and for the administration of the election of executive officers by secret ballot at the convention. To be eligible for nomination for an executive officer position, a minimum of one (1) year's membership in good standing in the union is required. Each nomination for executive officer shall be confirmed in writing, signed by a nominator and seconder, all of whom must be members in good standing. All nominations for executive officer positions, with the exception of the President, must be received by Union headquarters by 4:00 pm on August 17, 2009. Notwithstanding this requirement, nominations, with the exception of the position of President, may also be accepted from the floor of the convention in session.

The Accent is an internal publication of the Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees. Comments, questions, concerns and suggestions should be sent to: Mark Barrett, UPSE Communications and Campaigns Officer at mbarrett@peiupse.ca

Note to members distributing *The Accent*:

Because the material contained in this publication is often of a time-sensitive nature,
please post or distribute this Accent as soon as possible.

UPSE is proud to represent over 5000 members in both the public and private sectors.



Call for names: Highway Maintenance Labour Management Committee

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The Department of Transportation and Public Works has notified UPSE that the term is up for one of three union representatives serving on the Highway Maintenance Labour Management Committee. Members must serve a minimum of two years and replacements terms should be staggered to maintain a functional knowledge base on the committee.

Application Process

Current UPSE members sitting on the committee must re-apply to continue providing service as a committee representative. One of three current UPSE committee representatives will be replaced in order to create room for staggered positions on the committee. UPSE invites all those interested in serving on the Highway Maintenance Labour Management Committee to contact Mary MacLean at the UPSE office at 892-5335, toll free at 1-800-897-8773, or email peiupse@peiupse.ca.

The Executive will review names submitted and make recommendations to UPSE's Board of Directors. Those selected will be contacted.

The Committee is advisory in nature and has jurisdiction to discuss matters reviewed at a divisional level and subsequently referred to the committee for consideration. Also, the committee may work with others in the advancement of initiatives which have the potential to enhance the harmony, health and / or wellness of the workplace throughout the division. The Committee does not have jurisdiction on any matter of collective bargaining, including administration of the agreement.

Uncertain future for PEI's early learning sector

The Union of Public Sector Employees (UPSE) is asking government to begin its comprehensive review of early learning in Prince Edward Island. The introduction of full day school-based kindergarten in September 2010 will have a significant effect on the early childhood sector in P.E.I., and as stated in the Commissioner's Report on Public Kindergarten, "measures may be needed to avoid the loss of too many early childhood centres in the province."

The President of the Union of Public Sector Employees, Shelley Ward, said that "the Commissioner's report identifies the impacts on early childhood educators but makes few recommendations to avert these impacts. The early childhood sector will lose over \$5 million dollars in revenues in 2010 and over a third of their staff. Many centres will be forced to shut down."

"In effect, the Commissioner's Report on Public Kindergarten points out the serious consequences of introducing school-based kindergarten without having a plan in place to protect the vital early childhood education sector in Prince Edward Island," explained Ward.

Ward stated that "the Early Childhood Development Association (ECDA) had originally asked government to review the early learning sector when it was first decided to review the kindergarten system in P.E.I. Not surprisingly, at this much later date, we find the Commissioner recommending the very same thing. The difference is that the early childhood sector now finds its back up against the wall."

"The government must ensure that the Commissioner's recommendation is carried out promptly. Premier Ghiz has also assured Islanders that there will be more investments in early childhood education and a possibility of providing funding to keep early childhood centres open. The care and education of our most precious resource and the livelihoods of our educators and business owners depend on it," concluded Ward.

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