

THE Accent

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

Call for Delegates

NUPGE Triennial Convention, June 18th - 20th, 2010 in Vancouver, B.C.



The PEI Union of Public Sector Employees has issued a call for members who are qualified to act as delegates at NUPGE's Triennial Convention. Four dedicated, informed

and active PEI UPSE members will be selected to attend Convention in Vancouver in June.

NUPGE represents over 340,000 members across the country making it one of the largest labour organizations in Canada. The Triennial Convention represents NUPGE's supreme governing body, and will have delegates attending from all component unions.

As a member of PEI UPSE, you will be acting as a delegate at Convention. Therefore, members applying to attend must have a solid understanding of labour issues in relation to current political and socio-economic realities. To demonstrate your active involvement in the union and knowledge of current trends, please prepare and submit a formal paper / essay that details your union activities (*including roles, e.g., steward, committee member, convention delegate, campaign involvement etc.*) over the past three years and provide a detailed description of key union issues at both local and national levels. The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 19 at 1:00 p.m. at the PEI UPSE office.

There are no time in lieu days for Convention. There is wage repayment for Convention as per schedule.

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees
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Fax: 902-569-8186, Email: peiupse@peiupse.ca

Call for Chair

Civil Service Education, Development and Training Fund Committee

PEI UPSE is calling for a Civil Service member to sit as Chair of the Civil Service Education, Training and Development Fund Committee. The



Committee reviews applications for funding in support of education, development or training and determines fund distribution. The Committee meets once per month for two hours during working hours. If you are interested please call the PEI UPSE office and submit your name by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 19, 2010.

ILO Convention 87

March 23, 1972

Canada ratifies ILO Convention No.87: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize (1948). It establishes the right of all workers to form and join unions and engage in free collective bargaining. Convention No. 87 is referred to in the Preamble of the *Canada Labour Code*.

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 it as soon as possible.

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

Women's Day

March 8 is International Women's Day (IWD), the highlight of International Women's Week (March 7-13). Each year Canadians celebrate progress toward equality for women and reflect on current challenges and consider future steps in achieving equality for all women.



In 1910 the second International Conference of Working Women was held in Copenhagen with over 100 women from 17 countries in attendance representing unions, socialist parties and working women's clubs. The idea for IWD originated at the conference. Participants called on every country to celebrate women and press for equality on the same day every year. In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and international peace. Following the United Nations' lead, Canada chose March 8 as International Women's Day.

Recession threatens progress

The Canadian economy is in recession and research shows that women will often suffer more financial and employment consequences in a depressed economy. As all levels of government deal with growing deficits, the likelihood of social support systems, health care systems and long-term care systems suffering cutbacks are very high.

"For a hundred years, we have celebrated the achievements of women around the world. Yet equality still has not been achieved. To make lasting changes for women, we must ensure that they are able to pursue and obtain positions of leadership within our governments, our communities and our unions," states NUPGE's national president James Clancy.



James Clancy, President, NUPGE

NUPGE Atlantic School

Antigonish, N.S., May 16-21, 2010

This year's week long school is being held at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Course descriptions and eligibility criteria are as follows:

The *Advanced Steward* training course develops the knowledge and skills of stewards. It covers concepts like duty to accommodate, just cause and the duty of fair representation. It also develops techniques for investigating grievances, meetings with management, problem solving as well as workplace leadership and education (*open to stewards who have attained Steward Level II*).

The *Leadership* course develops skills necessary for today's leaders in the labour movement.



It reviews critical issues facing the labour movement while also working on important skills like strategic planning, team building, decision-making and critical analysis (*open to those who already or aspire to hold a leadership role within the union*).

The *Communications* course will help activists and leaders improve their public speaking skills. It will cover concepts like messaging and framing, the speaking voice, presentation skills, and skill building. Skill building will include crafting the message, talking to the media and talking on camera. You will be expected to make presentations and speak on camera during this course (*open to those who have shown an interest in communications with the Local or the union*).

Application forms are on the PEI UPSE website (www.peiupse.ca) or can be obtained by calling the Union office at (902) 892-5335 or toll free at 1-800- 897-8773. The application deadline is 4:00 p.m. on March 31, 2010.

All courses may only be taken once; you cannot apply for a course you have previously attended.

Space is limited, eligibility does not guarantee admission.