

THE Accent

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

Day of Mourning

April 28 is the National Day of Mourning



The *Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace* became a national day of observance for Canadians for the first time on April 28, 1991. It originally was called Workers' Memorial Day (1984), and the CLC officially declared it an annual day of remembrance on April 28, 1985. April 28 was chosen because on that day in 1914 the Workers Compensation Act received its third reading in Ontario's legislature.

The Day of Mourning prompts Canadians and Islanders to remember workers killed, disabled or injured in the workplace and workers afflicted with disease.

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Between 1998 and 2008, nineteen workers lost their lives in Prince Edward Island due to workplace injury and or illness (2009 figures not available). This is simply unacceptable. The research shows that workplace injury and illness are preventable. Indeed, workplace safety is everyone's responsibility.

Employer responsibilities - the Occupational Health and Safety Act states that employers are:

- to provide and maintain all materials and equipment in a safe manner
- to provide training and supervision necessary to ensure safe working conditions
- to cooperate with safety committees, representatives and OHS Officers
- to display a copy of the OHS Act and Regulations and post the phone number where the WCB can be reached
- to post any orders issued from the OHS Officers where employees can read them
- to provide and post the names and contact information of all current JOSH Committee members or OHS Representatives
- to report all serious workplace injuries to the WCB at 902-628-7513 and complete the Employer's Report – Form 7.

Worker responsibilities - according to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, workers are:

- to work safely, protect the health and safety of others and follow safe work procedures at all times.
- to wear personal protective equipment (if required to do a job safely) such as safety glasses, hearing protection and steel-toed boots. Equipment guards must also be kept in place and used properly.
- to co-operate with the OHS Representative or JOSH Committee and OHS Officers. The Internal Responsibility System depends on open communications.

(continued ...)

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.

• to report hazards, injuries and unsafe working conditions to the supervisor. If the supervisor is unable to respond to the issue, then the safety representative or committee member must be notified. If the problem is still not resolved, report it to the WCB at (902)368-5697 or call after hours at (902) 628-7513.

Occupational Health and Safety Officer responsibilities

• OHS Officers **inspect all workplaces across Prince Edward Island under provincial jurisdiction.** They ensure that all health and safety standards are being met by both the employer and the workers. The Officer documents the entire inspection and prepares a report, on-site. If there is a violation of the OHS Act, the Officer issues an Order to remedy the situation and it includes a due date in which the Order is to be complied by. Employers with higher workplace injury rates and high risk jobs will be inspected more often.

• OHS Officers **conduct workplace injury and fatality investigations.** OHS Officers will respond to a workplace following a report of a serious workplace injury or fatality to the WCB. They can request records and documents, take samples, seize items and take witness statements. The purpose of the investigation is to collect information to help workplaces prevent this type of injury from happening again in the future.

• OHS Officers will respond as quickly as possible to reported **work refusals or complaints** to assist the OHS Representative or JOSH Committee in determining whether there are reasonable grounds for the refusal. Orders may be issued to the employer if the OHS Officer determines the workplace is unsafe.

Internal Responsibility System

The Internal Responsibility System is based on the principle that all persons in a workplace (workers and employers) share the responsibility of health and safety. It stands to reason that the people managing and doing the work are most often aware of the hazards around them and their solutions.

Day of Mourning Ceremony (Province House)

The Federation of Labour invites all Islanders to the annual Day of Mourning ceremony at Province

House (7:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. Speakers include

Carl Pursey, President of the Federation of Labour, and the Honourable Janice Sherry, Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour.



If you would like to participate in the ceremony by laying a rose for your loved one, please contact the Federation of Labour at 368-3068. A reception will take place after the ceremony including refreshments.

Vacant Director Positions Filled

Locals meet challenge by filling vacant positions

The Membership Services Committee issued a call for nominations to fill vacant Director positions in locals 9, 11, 13, 17, 19 and 20.

Eligible nominees were members in good standing for at least a twelve month period, were nominated by a member in good standing from the same local, and have completed a Welcome to UPSE course.

Director positions filled:

- Bernie LeFort (Local 9)
- Jane Young (Local 11)
- Bryan Burt (Local 13)
- Terence McGaughey (Local 17)
- Barry Smith (Local 19)
- John Lane (Local 20)

Upcoming Education

Welcome to UPSE

This course is the first step for any member who would like to become involved in UPSE. It is a very informative course for any member who would like to learn more about their union. It is also a prerequisite for all other UPSE sponsored educationals.

Next Course: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 9 a.m. (Dutch Inn, North River)



Steward Level 1

This course is for members interested in being a Steward or who have been elected to the role, but have not yet been trained. No member may represent UPSE as a Steward until they have taken the mandatory training.

Prerequisite: participants must have completed the *Welcome to UPSE* course before attending any other educational.

Next Course: Friday, June 4, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. (Dutch Inn, North River)

Call the UPSE office to register for the *Welcome to UPSE* or *Steward Level 1* course at (902) 892-5335 or toll free at 1(800) 897-8773. You can also use the application form on the UPSE website at www.peiupse.ca. Please note that space is limited and a list will be created in case of overflow.