

THE Accent

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

National Day of Mourning

April 28

Two people died in workplace accidents on Prince Edward Island in 2009. These people had family and friends like everyone else. They had busy lives that were cut short. They had responsibilities. You don't expect to die simply because you go to work. Well, on Prince Edward Island twenty-one people have died since 1998 because they went to work. This is unacceptable.



Twenty-one people have died in workplace accidents on PEI since 1998.

On April 28 PEI UPSE asks all Islanders to mourn the dead and fight for the living. Let's remember the people who lost their lives in workplace accidents. Let's fight for improved Occupational Health and Safety in workplaces and speak to our government representatives about the need to properly enforce existing OHS laws. In 2009 WCB conducted 2,488 workplace safety inspections, roughly 500 more inspections than in each of the previous four years. This is a step in the right direction; however, it still leaves many workplaces free from any kind of scrutiny and or enforcement (*cont*).

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, PEI 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.

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

The province should also consider increasing maximum fines for PEI workplace deaths to \$500,000 as is being done in Nova Scotia. This change would require amending the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The fine for first offences would remain at the current level of \$250,000 but companies that violate the OHS Act more than once in a five year period would be subject to a maximum fine of \$500,000 (where a worker is killed on the job). Increasing penalties will send a strong message to those who break health and safety laws in Prince Edward Island.

Workers have Rights!

The right to know about information and issues that affect their workplace health and safety.

The right to participate in workplace safety by reporting unsafe or unhealthy work conditions, or joining the joint occupational health and safety committee.

The right to refuse unsafe or unhealthy work.

Day of Mourning Ceremony - Province House

When: Thursday, April 28, 2011

Where: Province House

Time: 7:00 pm



All Islanders are encouraged to attend the ceremony with reception to follow. If you would like to participate by laying a rose please contact the fed of labour (368-3068).

Call for OHS Award

Douglas MacMaster Memorial Occupational Health and Safety Award

Nomination deadline: April 25, 2011

Submit nomination to: *Karen Thomson, Occupational Health and Safety Manager, Public Service Commission*

email: kjthomson@gov.pe.ca

For more info call: Karen Thomson, 902-368- 6622

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees
4 Enman Crescent, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1E 1E6
902-892-5335 or toll free 1-800-897-8773 (1-800-897-UPSE)
Fax: 902-569-8186, Email: peiupse@peiupse.ca

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