

# THE Accent

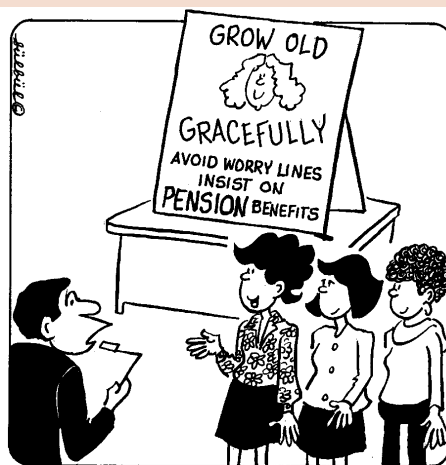
Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

## **Pension Conference - June 14, 2011**

*Dutch Inn, Cornwall, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

### **Who should attend?**

**All members,  
including young  
workers!**



"We're doing a seminar on growing old gracefully."

**Come learn about  
your pension!**

***Planning for the future and  
for retirement security  
is important to all Canadians.***

**Call the union at **902-892-5335** or email  
**[peiupse@peiupse.ca](mailto:peiupse@peiupse.ca)** by Friday, June 3,  
2011 at 4:00 p.m. to reserve your spot!**

**Are you prepared for your retirement in 10-20 years?**

Islanders in receipt of the average yearly OAS, GIS and CPP benefits  
(\$17,260) are barely living above the poverty line **(\$15,344)**

*Pension Conference presenters include: Larry Brown (National Union of Public and General Employees), Terry Hogan & Pamela MacEachern (Employee Benefits Program), Rick Burger & Eileen Brown Wilt (Retirees), President Shelley Ward (PEI UPSE), and Wendy McGrath (Service Canada).*

# Pension Awareness

## Over 60% of Canadians have no pension plan!

Canadians are facing a pension crisis - most Canadians are not able to save enough to allow them to retire in dignity and security. Over 60% of Canadians have no pension plan, and one-third of Canadian workers aged 24-64 have no personal retirement savings at all. The financial crisis has wreaked havoc on personal savings showing the inadequacy of RRSPs, and pension plans are under attack by big business and right wing governments. In fact, since the recession, "the number of private sector workers with pension coverage declined by 2.1%" (Statistics Canada) making it the first time that "the majority of Canadians who have workplace pension plans are government employees" (Globe and Mail). As union members we need to be vigilant about our pension plans coming under attack as governments look for ways to slash millions from their deficits. There has never been a more important time to stand together and create awareness about the importance of our own pension plans, and for ensuring that all Canadians are protected as they enter retirement through an enhanced Canada Pension Plan. **Attend our Pension Conference!**

The **Canada Pension Plan (CPP)** is the best vehicle to ensure future economic security for Canadians. The CPP is a defined-benefit public pension plan that outperforms private savings options as a retirement savings vehicle. Enhancing the CPP is the most effective way to modify the retirement income system for a number of reasons. CPP is pervasive; it is a guaranteed payment (nobody's cheque decreased during the economic crisis) that covers 93% of working Canadians; and it is portable from job to job and from province to province. CPP is also low cost, low risk, indexed to inflation and secure. However, the CPP is presently capped so that at its maximum benefit it only will provide 25% of the average wage. If you factor in Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income supplement, you are looking on average, at benefits equal to one-third of previous earnings. This is not nearly enough, especially for the majority of Canadians who have no workplace pension plan - and for Islanders whom only 18% contributed to RRSPs in 2008. Labour's plan to enhance the CPP by doubling benefits will ensure a better minimum pension for all Canadians, and it would only require saving less than 3% more of our salaries through a CPP contribution increase. **Think about a better future!**

With Labour's Plan, a worker who is 38 years old and works full time from now until retirement at age 65 (27 years of expanded contributions) would earn a monthly CPP payment of about \$1,293.

Without labour's plan, the same worker's monthly CPP payment would only be about \$646. (CLC)



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