

# THE Accent

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

## Presidential Election, 2015

The upcoming election will be administered by a mail out/mail in ballot process. Ballots will be mailed to all UPSE members in good standing on August 31, 2015. Members are required to mail back their ballots by 4:00 p.m. on September 30, 2015. To ensure that you receive a ballot, please ensure your current contact information is up-to-date with the union (**call 902-892-5335 or toll free at 1-800-897-8773**). The union received two nominations for the position of President by the nomination deadline on August 3, 2015. Debbie Bovyer and Karen Jackson are the candidates.

### Debbie Bovyer re-offers for President



*Debbie Bovyer is President of UPSE, and an LPN with Health PEI at Prince Edward Home.*

### Karen Jackson offers for President



*Karen Jackson is the Second Vice - President of UPSE, and an LPN with Health PEI at KC Memorial Hospital.*

Greetings Sisters and Brothers:

Hi, I am Debbie Bovyer and I am re-offering for the position of President of PEI UPSE. I am a resident of Stratford where I reside with my husband Steve; and we are the proud parents of Miranda and Colby. I have been a Licensed Practical Nurse for the past 28 years and spent 25 of those years at the Prince Edward Home in Charlottetown; and for the past 3 years I have had the pleasure of serving as President of PEI UPSE.

As your President I sit on the National Executive Board; the PEI Federation of Labour; Fair EI Coalition; and the CSSF Commission on behalf of the 5000 members across our great Island. I have also become active in community organizations that work to better the lives of Islanders.

I have been an active member in PEI UPSE all my working career; serving five years on the Executive as Second Vice-President and Secretary Treasurer.

I have represented my local as Chief Steward, Local Director, as well as a

Greetings Sisters and Brothers:

My name is Karen Jackson and I have been a proud union member of the Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees for the past 26 years and have been an activist for the past 24 years.

During my time with UPSE I have held several union positions. I became a Steward in 1990, and I am still active in defending the members of local 16 with many diverse issues they face. I sat on the Board of Directors, representing local 16 for 15 years. I have been in the position of 2nd Vice-President for the past 5 years and was in the role of interim President for 4 months. With each of these roles, I have welcomed the challenges, but most of all I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many members across this province and listen to their concerns and discuss their issues.

I have sat on and chaired several committees during my time with UPSE, both within our union and in coalition with other unions in the province. I am especially proud to have been part of the P3 campaign that spearheaded education for our members and the public on the facts of P3s - public private partnerships. I am very proud of that campaign that changed the direction the government was taking regarding the building

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member of the Labour Management Committee and also as an alternate on the OHS Worksite Committee at my workplace. I have represented PEI UPSE at national conferences as well as the PEI Federation of Labour Board of Directors.

I have completed many educational courses including the Canadian Labour Congress; the National Union of Public and General Employees Advanced Leadership course, as well as any and all courses offered by PEI UPSE.

Under my leadership as your President, we have seen the membership of PEI UPSE increase by organizing two new groups; as well as the signing of several collective agreements which all have seen wage increases which is a testimony to what we can accomplish when we all work together for the benefit of our 5000 members!

As your President, I have worked with your Executive Officers and the Board of Directors in order to ensure we remain within board approved budget expenses; which has resulted in having two consecutive surplus budgets.

This is just the beginning of the great things that we have accomplished together; but there is much more to be done. With your continued support I look forward to the opportunity of serving another term as your President as we continue to move the greatest union in PEI into the future!

Thank you,  
Debbie Bovyer

## Results for nominations of Directors in odd numbered locals

The deadline for nominations for *Board of Director* positions in odd numbered locals was July 31, 2015. No more than one nomination was received for each position, therefore, no elections were required. UPSE congratulates its Directors for their continued involvement in the union and for participating in the democratic process. Please see the following list of UPSE Directors elected by acclamation in odd numbered locals.

*For a complete list of Directors visit the union website at [www.peiupse.ca](http://www.peiupse.ca)*

**Local 1 Juanita Gallant 902-859-8804**

**Local 3 Arlene Bowness 902-888-8310**

**Local 5 Susan Harris 902-888-8370**  
**Steve Mollins 902-888-8357**

**Local 7 Kim Stewart 902-569-0585**

**Local 9 Lynn Bovyer 902-368-4607**

**Local 11 Anita Verreault 902-368-4700**

**Local 13 Vacancy**

**Local 15 Jane Young 902-838-0812**

**Local 17 Terence McGaughey 902-566-9557**

**Local 19 Carol McGrath 902-961-2230**  
**Eileen Brown 902-859-2317**

**Local 20 Don MacDonald 902-566-9573** *(this Local was vacant prior)*

of our new manors which would have negatively affected the collective agreements of all our members employed in these institutions.

I have sat on the last 2 sets of the health negotiations, and it was during this process that I gained an even greater respect for what our Brothers and Sisters before us fought for - to give us the rights and benefits of our collective agreements.

I have taken advantage of many union/labour related educational sessions over the years. I believe that activists need to be educated on the ever-changing issues facing unions both provincially and nationally. That knowledge can only enhance our ability to best represent our members. We need to be proactive with the issues not reactive. A case in point is the new attendance management policy this employer is initiating in health. We see what is happening federally with the attack on public service sick time benefits - possibly reducing their sick time. We as a union need to be proactive to protect the rights of our collective agreement and not allow the employer to create policy to unjustly discipline employees that use their sick leave legitimately. Maybe a better approach would be to view sick leave as a symptom of a bigger problem, facing our frontline workers in all UPSE worksites, job burnout, stress from unrealistic workloads, discord/bullying in the worksite, the inability to get time off when requested, to name a few. They should address the cause not the symptom.

I am a trained facilitator for the bully free workplace workshops, and I am very proud UPSE has initiated this training. I have always believed that bullying has no place in our worksites, but sadly I also know it takes place daily and many of our members suffer because of this. Even if it is as insidious as exclusion or the spreading of rumors, to outright intimidation, bullying is bullying and we need to continue to spread the message that it should not be tolerated. If elected president, I want to revisit the worksites that have had the workshops and evaluate whether there has been a positive change in the workplace culture.

Over the years I have marched in many Union rallies and walked with Brothers and Sisters from other Unions supporting their cause. The 7.5 rollback was my first march and I will never forget the feeling of solidarity, when all unions come together to have their voices heard.

One of the things I would love to see is more involvement from our youth. We need to engage the youth of this union and we as leaders, need to mentor them and make them feel welcome in our house of labour. I always get excited when I see young members taking our educationals and taking on the role of steward or participating on a committee. The future of our union depends on educating our youth on the importance unions play in providing workers with a decent standard of living, safe working environments and all the benefits of our collective agreements.

In closing, I would like to say once again that I am a proud union member and proud I belong to the greatest union on PEI. I am as passionate today about the issues as I was 24 years ago and I am honoured that I have been able to represent my members in the different roles I have been involved in or elected to. I am proud to offer my name as president of the Union of Public Sector Employees. This union belongs to us all, together we are strong. I feel it is a privilege, to be in these roles, something I take very seriously and I am asking for your support to serve in the role of President. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at (902) 393-9925 or e-mail me at [k\\_jack29@hotmail.com](mailto:k_jack29@hotmail.com).

Thank you,  
Karen Jackson