

THE Accent

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

UPSE Commends Heavy Equipment Operators in PEI!

The blizzard that hit PEI on Sunday, February 15 and Monday, February 16 (*Islander Day*) was one for the record books. With a total of 86.8 cm of snowfall, the *Islander Day Blizzard* rivaled, and in some ways surpassed the severity of *White Juan*, which dumped 70 cm of snow in Prince Edward Island in 2004.

During severe weather events like these, everyone recognizes the paramount importance of public service workers. We saw evidence of this through social media, the mainstream media, and just by talking to our neighbours. People were expressing thanks and commendations to the workers who braved the elements, and cleared the roads across PEI.

We rely on our *Heavy Equipment Operators* to open up transportation routes so we can travel to work, send our kids to school, enable the efficient flow of vital goods and services, and respond to emergencies when they occur. Running heavy equipment safely requires a high level of awareness, and the ability to work alone for extended periods. Without our operators on the job, the province would become paralyzed for extended periods of time with significant consequence.

Provincial Heavy Equipment Operators ensure our safety through careful maintenance of some 1,800 km of roads across PEI. Where would we be without our operators?



Heavy equipment operators are skilled workers that use:

- snowplows
- graders (reclaimer)
- bush hogs and grass cutters
- trucks, floats and pup
- front-end loaders
- rollers and spreaders for asphalt
- gradall
- boom truck

Calling for nominations for the 2015 Douglas MacMaster Memorial Occupational Health and Safety Award

Nomination Deadline - May 15, 2015

Beginning in 2006, the Douglas MacMaster Memorial Occupational Health and Safety Award for excellence in occupational health and safety was introduced. The award is designed to celebrate individual or team achievements by civil service employees in the promotion and development of health and safety.

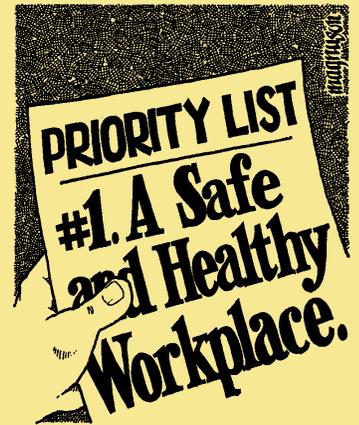
Mr. MacMaster, a dedicated public service employee with the Provincial Forest Program for more than 25 years, was a silvicultural trainer and educator for government staff, woodlot owners and operators. Doug developed and taught a variety of courses promoting chainsaw, brushsaw, and woods safety within government and the private sector. As a forest safety inspector and supervisor, he constantly strived to achieve safer operations for everyone.

In addition, Doug was an innovator and fabricator of equipment that improved forest safety. He distributed these designs across the country and assisted others with ways to make their equipment more effective and safe. Until he was unable to do so, Doug continued to teach and promote forest safety. Doug passed away in November 2004 but left behind a memory of an individual who was truly committed to forest safety, his family and his community.

Eligibility Criteria

Nominators must provide information to support the award by describing the individual's or team's achievements in occupational health and safety in one or more of the following areas:

- *Improvement of health & safety in the workplace. This may include improving committee meetings, membership incentives, workshops, training ideas, etc.*
- *Encouragement of team safety awareness and advocacy of safe workplaces by government employees*
- *Development and implementation of a solution to an identified workplace health & safety issue. This may include a new product to reduce risk, design/engineering ideas to make work safer, or awareness that reduces the risk of workplace related injury/disease.*
- *Development or promotion of new occupational health and safety training materials. This may include new posters, videos, training equipment, comment boxes, etc.*
- *Development of young and new workers injury prevention incentives. This may include special training, orientation checklists, videos, etc.*
- *Encouragement of improved safety inspections, incident documentation, and other practices which lead to hazard reduction in government work sites.*
- *Development and support of programs that improve the health and safety of the employees.*
- *Demonstration of excellence and innovation in rehabilitation and return to work programs for ill or injured employees.*



Nomination Process (nominations must include):

- *A summary of the accomplishment(s) of the nominee(s) in relation to the above criteria; and*
- *At least one letter of endorsement describing the nominee's accomplishment(s) to support the nomination. The endorsement letter(s) may come from peers, supervisors, clients, partners and supervised staff.*

The nomination deadline is May 15, 2015. Nominations may be submitted via letter, fax, or e-mail as follows:

Douglas MacMaster Memorial Occupational Health and Safety Award Nomination

Mail: c/o Karen Thomson, Occupational Health and Safety Manager, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Fax: Attn. Karen Thomson, 902-368-6622

E-mail: kjthomson@gov.pe.ca

In Person: Karen Thomson, Occupational Health and Safety Manager, Public Service Commission, 1st floor, Sullivan Building, Room 135, Charlottetown

The Public Service Commission will convene a selection committee and evaluate the nominations based on the achievements recognized in the eligibility criteria. The award will be presented at a special ceremony during PSC Week in June of this year.

This 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.

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