

THE Accent

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

Call for nominations Presidential Election, 2015

The union's Presidential Nominations Committee has issued a call for nominations for the upcoming Presidential election. Presidential terms are for three years. A new term will begin following Convention in the fall. Nomination forms can be picked up at the union office and will include an up-to-date copy of the policies and procedures for the election. In order to be accepted, all nomination forms are due at the UPSE office by **4:00 p.m. on August 3, 2015** and must include a biography and picture of the candidate, as well as a \$250 refundable deposit fee.



The Presidential Nominations Committee will meet on August 3 to review all nomination forms. If more than one form is received and accepted, then an election will be called. Candidates are required to meet at **5:00 p.m. on August 3** at the UPSE office to review the policies and procedures for the election. The committee will then meet on August 31 to mail out ballots to all UPSE members in good standing. Biographies will be circulated to the membership in the Accent and will also be included in the ballot mail - out. Members will then have time to choose their preferred candidate and mail back their ballots by **September 30 at 4:00 p.m.** Two designated Presidential Election Committee members plus one scrutineer for each candidate, whose name must be given to the committee chair in advance, will meet at the Charlottetown post office at **8:30 a.m. on October 1** to pick up all ballots which are mailed in. The ballots will then be brought to a designated location to be counted by the committee members. The Chairperson will then notify all candidates with the election results.

To be eligible for nomination to the position of President a member must: *a) be employed by a bargaining unit employer b) be paying dues, c) have a signed membership card on file at the UPSE office, and d) have a minimum of one year's continuous membership in good standing.*

Note: *Members who have not received a ballot by September 9, 2015 may call the office to have a duplicate ballot mailed to their home address. No duplicate ballots will be issued before September 9.*

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees
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Fax: 902-569-8186, Email: peiupse@peiupse.ca

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

Educational: Steward Level II

The Steward Level II course is being offered to UPSE members on **September 18, 2015**. Steward Level II is an informative follow-up to the Level I offering. Learners will focus on representation issues including: knowing your membership, working with your union executive, grievance preparation, problem solving and conflict resolution.

Prerequisite: Welcome to UPSE and Steward Level I

Course: Steward Level II

Date: Sept. 18, 2015

Time: 9 - 4 p.m.

Location: UPSE

**Please register online at
(www.peiupse.ca) under "education" or contact the union office to register
at 902-892-5335, toll free 1-800-897-8773, or e-mail
peiupse@peiupse.ca by September 4, 2015.**

CPP Contributions Should Rise

UPSE supports a mandatory expansion of the Canada Pension Plan, and so do the majority of Canadians. A recent Forum poll showed that 59% of Canadians are in favour of mandatory increases, while only 45% were in favour of voluntary increases.

One of the reasons the CPP is such a successful plan is because of mandatory contributions. Over the last ten years, the federal government has avoided plans to increase the CPP, however, with a federal election on the horizon the government is now suggesting they will consult Canadians about the idea to introduce a voluntary contribution option. The general thinking here is that a voluntary option will let Canadians choose whether they want to invest more in their pension or not. The same would apply to employers, who would also have a choice on whether to contribute or not. With a voluntary system, there is a certain degree of likelihood that many employers would choose to opt out, leaving workers disadvantaged in comparison to a system based on mandatory contributions.

The CPP was originally designed to act as a component of retirement, along with one's workplace pension plan, RRSPs and investments. However, today, more than 60% of working Canadians do not have a workplace pension plan. Many Canadians are faced with the prospect of retiring with limited means, or not retiring at all. That's why it's so important that we grow and expand the CPP so that all Canadians can retire in security and dignity.

**The majority of
Canadians support a
mandatory CPP
expansion.**