

THE Accent

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

Presidential Election, 2018

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 27, 2018**. Members are required to mail back their ballots by 4:00 p.m. on **September 26, 2018**. To ensure that you receive a ballot, please ensure your current contact information (home address) 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 July 30, 2018. Karen Jackson and Bryan Burt are the candidates. **Note:** Members who have not received a ballot by **September 10, 2018** may call the office to have a duplicate ballot mailed to their home address. No duplicate ballots will be issued before September 10.

Karen Jackson re-offers for President



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

Greetings UPSE Members,

My name is Karen Jackson and I am honoured to be re-offering for the position of President of PEI Union of Public Sector Employees. I have been a proud UPSE activist for the past 30 years and I have had the honour of serving as your President for the past 3 years.

As your President, I am not on this road alone. Leading UPSE takes an enormous team effort - from our dedicated UPSE staff, to our Executive and Board of Directors, to our front line local officers, and shop stewards, who volunteer their time and energy to improve our workplaces and enforce our collective agreements, to our rank and file members- the reason we exist as a Union. I want to take this opportunity to say Thank You for your support and service to our membership.

Privatization: During the past 3 years UPSE has dealt with many challenges facing our members. We have organized and participated in dozens of demonstrations against the privatization of our public liquor stores across the province. We just finished running a powerful media campaign against the privatization of Home Care, in coalition with PEINU, that has garnered significant and positive feedback, not only from our members but also the public. Working with other Unions not only strengthens our message but educates the public about the importance Unions play in our communities in defending Public Services.

Bryan Burt offers for President



Bryan Burt is Director of Local 13 and Chief Steward, and works in Network Operations with the province as a Technical Support.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Bryan Burt; I have been a member of the PEI Union of Public Sector Employees since 1998 in the Information Technology field, first with the PEI Department of Education and now with IT Shared Services.

I am honoured to have my name stand as candidate for President of the PEI Union of Public Sector Employees. I am prepared to execute the duties of the position professionally, respectfully and to the best of my ability. I will work diligently with the Board of Directors, Executive, and PEIUPSE staff to support and serve our membership and the greater community of Prince Edward Island. A union is its membership; our union is full of great volunteers and activists who help spread the message of solidarity and ensure PEIUPSE is servicing our membership and promoting positive values and social awareness. I respectfully ask for your support in this election. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions – (902) 314-6900 or via email bsburt@gmail.com.

Maintaining Public Services is crucial for Islanders. Privatization of public services has been tried in many other jurisdictions, both in health care and in the civil service. Time and again it has been proven to be more expensive to tax payers and in many cases the service levels were inferior to what they were before. I will engage with the province to show the downside of these types of initiatives and endeavour to

I believe that Public Services should not be placed in the hands of those who put profit before people...not today...not tomorrow...not ever. Our members' jobs who provide these valuable public services must be protected.

Social Issues and Violence in the Workplace: Violence in our members' worksites is escalating at alarming rates, and I have been working tirelessly with both our members and the employer to address this serious issue. In Health and Corrections the violence our members are facing is leading to job burnout and stress from unrealistic workloads. We are currently collecting information from our members to help in organizing a campaign to address this serious issue, and hope to have this completed by early fall.

Sadly many of our members continue to experience Bullying/Harassment in their worksites, leading to toxic environments, this has been an ongoing issue for many years, and UPSE has had success bringing media attention to this issue and filing grievances to address this. We have also been a constant and strong voice in our media on a number of social issues. We have been a driving force on Bill 116, Paid Domestic Violence Leave Legislation, and it will be a proud moment when this Bill is proclaimed, and all Islanders will have job and financial security across this province if they are faced with this issue. We have also submitted written submissions on WCB Harassment Legislation, Whistle Blower Legislation, EI zoning and Minimum wage legislation to name a few.

Organizing/Collective Bargaining: Under my leadership, we have seen the membership increase by organizing the City of Charlottetown. We have been busy on the negotiation front with many of our agreements expiring. We have signed several collective agreements with increased wages and benefits for our members, and negotiations are ongoing in several others.

UPSE Education: I believe 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. One of the things I have encouraged is more involvement from our youth. We have developed several new workshops over the past 3 years that have been popular with our members. I have been encouraged by the increase of young members attending our courses and taking on the role of stewards in their worksites. The future of our Union depends on educating our youth about the importance Unions play, in providing workers with a decent standard of living, safe working environments and all the benefits of our collective agreements.

On a personal note, I have taken advantage of many Union/Labour-related educational sessions over the years, and have the experience of being a shop steward, Committee Chair, member of a Negotiation Team, Provincial Director, 2nd Vice President and President. I have enjoyed meeting and working with members across the Province and listening to your concerns and issues. Looking back, I am proud of what we have accomplished over the past 3 years, and how we have moved UPSE forward, however, there is much more to be done. We are dealing with employers that continue to disrespect our collective agreements and initiate policy that negatively affects our members. I feel it is a privilege to serve as your President and speak out on your issues. This Union belongs to us all, together we are strong, and I am asking for your support to serve another term as your President. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 902-393-9925 or email me at k_jack29@hotmail.com.

Thank You for your consideration,
Karen Jackson

bring positive light to the public services provided by our members. I will also work tirelessly to ensure our membership does not lose benefits that have been negotiated through successful collective bargaining.

Strong Collective Agreements are the best way for our employers to recruit skilled employees to join the workforce and to retain them long-term. It is in the best interest of both our employers and our membership to secure and maintain the benefits we have and to proactively and responsibly negotiate future agreements.

Violence in the workplace is becoming too common and is now occurring in worksites we would not expect. Frontline workers in corrections and in health care are now carrying the added stress and worry of the high possibility of being assaulted while they carry out their duties. I will work with our members, management, and the Workers Compensation Board to put better protocols in place to ensure the safety and security of our members and their clients.

Experienced and active leadership - I have been active in our union since 2001, during the first attempt to privatize Government IT Services. Between then and the creation of IT Shared Services in 2006, because of our Union's **solidarity**, we successfully defeated several other attempts to privatize IT services. I have represented PEIUPSE members on the Board of Directors, Stewards' Council, as a bargaining rep during the past four Civil Service Collective Agreement negotiations, Bill 44's Health restructure, and as well as during the 2006 'IT Optimization' when all 180 government IT employees were issued intent-to-layoff notices and were forced to vie for 120 positions in the new "Shared Services" organization.

I have also participated in and supported many National and Provincial public campaigns; (Income) **Tax Fairness; All Together Now**, and was featured in media ads for the **PEI Pension Reform** campaign. I have attended many PEIUPSE/CLC educational courses, most recently attending Week-Long Labour School in Nova Scotia where I completed the Leadership course. I am a regular delegate at our PEIUPSE Annual Convention and was able to represent PEIUPSE as a delegate several times at the PEI Federation of Labour Convention, as well as being a NUPGE delegate for the triennial Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) constitutional convention in Toronto in May of 2017. I am also a past member of the Finance Committee, and was a member of the Building Committee to renovate and enlarge the union office on Enman Crescent to meet our unions' needs into the future.

Again, thank you for your consideration and support.

In Solidarity,

Bryan Burt, CET