

# THE Accent

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees



## Public Service Week

June 9-15, 2019



An average Canadian family enjoys about \$40,000 per year worth of public services.

Public Services make a better life possible for families in PEI!

In recognition of Public Service Week 2019, I would like to thank our members and all public service employees for their continued help in making our communities safe, secure and healthy. This is a week to recognize the value of public services in all our lives and to acknowledge the contribution of public service workers. Our public services are tied directly to the quality of life we experience as Islanders and Canadians.

As President of UPSE, I am proud to recognize your contribution, both at work and in your communities, to the health, safety and well-being of all Islanders. You make Prince Edward Island a better place to live and work every day.

Karen Jackson, UPSE President

*Public services are tied directly to the quality of life we experience as Islanders and Canadians.*

*It's hard to imagine what our lives would be like without public services!*

*As Canadians, we value principles of fairness and we know that public services help meet everyone's basic needs.*

*We understand that because public services belong to us, the institutions that deliver them are accountable to us.*

The 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](mailto:mbarrett@peiupse.ca).

Note to members distributing The Accent:

Because the material contained in this publication is often of a time-sensitive nature, please post or distribute it as soon as possible.

# Public Services Deserve Recognition

## **National Public Service Week is June 9-15, 2019.**

National Public Service Week is June 9-15, 2019. This is a week to recognize the value of public services in all our lives and to acknowledge the contributions of public service workers. We sometimes take our public services for granted; but try to imagine our lives without them. No safe roads, no schools, no hospitals, no police, and no court system. Imagine! The truth is, we depend on our public services every day – and if we really think about it, public services are about being part of something bigger than ourselves.

As Canadians, we collectively own our public services and together our common wealth protects and creates opportunities for everyone. Think about the role government plays in improving the economy for instance. Governments, through our public services, provide the social and economic infrastructure required for economies to thrive. We need roads, bridges, sewers, and water supply systems to help private business produce goods and services and get them to market. We also need schools to educate our citizens (the workforce); health care to keep us healthy so we can contribute; and a social safety net to protect us when we are injured (Workers Compensation), unemployed (Employment Insurance), impoverished (Social Services), and elderly (Canada Pension).

In short, our public services are tied directly to the quality of life we experience as Islanders and Canadians. In fact, regardless of how much we earn privately as individuals, we each receive about \$17,000 worth of public services per year, or \$40,000 for the average family. This is a big part of what makes us Canadian – we all have access to public services regardless of our income. For example, if we get sick, we can depend on our universally funded public health care system. In Canada, you won't be forced to sell your house in order to pay for unexpected medical expenses, or worse, be denied treatment if you can't afford them. As a result, we have a stronger and more stable society than those societies where only the wealthy are truly protected.

As Canadians we value principles of fairness and equal opportunity, and we know that public services help meet everyone's basic needs. We understand that because public services belong to us, the institutions that deliver them are accountable to us. This means that we have a say about how public services are delivered, and through our democratic institutions we can continually work to improve our quality of life advantage as Islanders and Canadians.

In recognition of Public Service Week 2019, I thank our members and all public service employees for their continued help in making our communities safe, secure and healthy. You make Prince Edward Island a better place to live and work every day.

**Karen Jackson,**  
**President, PEI Union of Public Sector Employees**

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