

UPSE not a willing partner in Employer driven payroll schedule change

If this is what the Liberal government means by saying they are going to be a “labour-friendly government” then they can keep it. A low blow was delivered to the UPSE Civil Service employees on behalf of the Liberal government this week.

In 2006, the Conservative government proposed a payroll schedule change for Civil Service employees, which was soon scrapped as a result of you, the members, calling your MLA’s to voice your concerns. This previous government knew from the outcry of the UPSE members that this was not something they could endorse.

This same payroll schedule change is now being implemented with the blessing of our present day Liberal government officials. UPSE is, and was from the beginning, opposed to this Employer-driven initiative. We do not agree that our members should be forced to pay back sixteen (16) days pay when it is the Employer and the Liberal government who are pushing this pay schedule change.

Health employees were delivered this same attack in the late 1990’s and some of these employees still owe days back to this government.

UPSE put forth many proposals to this government in an attempt to come to an agreement that you, the members would not have to pay back these sixteen (16) days, days in which you could use to spend quality time with your families.

UPSE, however, did get the Employer and the government’s support to agree to freeze the amount of money that employees will owe to the dollar amount of February 14, 2008.

The government cannot deny the fact that they have been making money on the Health employees for many years. Health employees, although this event had been imposed in the late 1990’s, have been paying back their days at the rate of pay at the day they paid it back. Although UPSE is appreciative of this freeze, we are disappointed with a government who said that they were going to be “labour-friendly”.

This is a poor benchmark to set and a poor example of being “labour-friendly”. UPSE will continue to press onwards in an attempt to have this government pay for their own schedule change and not on the backs of UPSE members.