

For immediate release

April 30, 2008

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WARD CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO SETTLE CONTRACT

Shelley Ward, President of the Union of Public Sector Employees, is calling on the Liberal government to address the issue of its employees' collective agreement not being settled after 40 days in negotiations. The Civil Service employees have been without a collective agreement for thirteen months now and there is no sign of a date for either arbitration or a call to get the agreement settled.

“Our members are very upset that their collective agreement has not been settled when there have been other agreements that have been successfully concluded during the past 13 months. The civil service bargaining team had spent a total of 40 days at the table in an attempt to settle the terms of the agreement between the parties but unfortunately has not been successful, in finalizing a new collective agreement. The Civil Service bargaining unit has faced many concessions over the years with regards to collective bargaining, with the biggest being the 7.5% roll back. It's time for this Liberal government to settle this outdated collective agreement”, states Ward. With the increased cost of home heating fuel and gas prices continually on the rise, these employees deserve their wage increases sooner rather than later. It's hard to believe that a new government would put its own employees through this long process.

The Union of Public Sector Employees is the largest union on Prince Edward Island representing 5000 members, and approximately 2600 of those being Civil Service employees.