

For Immediate Release
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Contact:

Shelley Ward – 393-1161

or
or Toll-Free

Cathy MacKinnon - 892-5335
1-800-897-8773

Unions join forces to fight Public Private Partnerships

Three Prince Edward Island Unions that represent health care workers have joined together to raise awareness about Public Private Partnerships (P3s) and the threat they pose to the province's public services. The Union of Public Sector Employees (UPSE), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) are conducting the **Blow the Whistle on P3s** Campaign. This initial phase of the campaign includes a fact sheet and a postcard component. The public is encouraged to sign a postcard to the premier letting him know that they do not feel P3s are in the best interest of Island taxpayers.

The unions felt Islanders may be swayed by the government's comments that utilizing P3 arrangements to replace the province's aging manors would allow them to complete the projects much sooner than if they went the traditional route. "What they are not telling Islanders is that in the end the associated costs for taxpayers could be equal to, or more than, those associated with a traditional public infrastructure project, and a private business would own the facility – not the taxpayers," says UPSE President, Shelley Ward.

The coalition will have an information booth set up at the coliseum during Old Home Week and they are encouraging all Islanders to drop by and pick up some information. "We are confident that once Islanders know all the facts they will support us in our efforts to keep all aspects of public services in the public domain," concludes Ward.

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