

February 24, 2010

For Immediate Release

Job Relocation Not the Answer

The President of the Union of Public Sector Employees, Shelley Ward, said “the Premier should reconsider moving twelve employees in the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal from Charlottetown and the surrounding area to Tignish. These people are well established in their communities and some have young families. They are now faced with selling their homes and moving to Tignish, or commuting for almost four hours every day. This is an unrealistic job expectation to foist on your employees with little or no reason.”

“The Premier is selling job relocation as part of his Rural Action Plan to help individual communities. However, what we really have here is one group of Islanders being picked on to help another group of Islanders. And if helping one community depends on hurting another, then the Premier should re-examine his Rural Development strategy,” argued Ward.

“You also have to consider that the Province has expressed an interest in retiring employees from the public service as of late,” explained Ward, “and that this job relocation move may end up forcing gainfully employed people out of their jobs. Further, we know that in the current environment Government will continue to create casual work as opposed to maintaining permanent full time positions when employees retire.”

President Ward said “Tignish is a community that has rightly expressed an interest in being a part of rural economic development initiatives. What the Government needs to consider is how to create jobs and real investment in Tignish and rural Prince Edward Island. The current approach is just a costly shuffle of people, programs and services already in place. Instead, why not give Tignish a boost in gainful employment by creating secure, permanent, full time jobs for the many local public service employees who have been kept in casual positions.”

-30-

Please contact Mark Barrett at 892-5335 (or toll-free at 1-800- 897-8773) to arrange an interview.