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**For Immediate Release**

## Province Responsible for Deficit

The President of the Union of Public Sector Employees, Shelley Ward, said “the Provincial Treasurer, Wes Sheridan, continues to side step responsibility for Prince Edward Island’s \$85 million deficit. He is simply capitalizing on yet another opportunity to deflect criticism away from his own Government’s mismanagement of public funds by placing the blame elsewhere,” explained Ward.

“The Province has known since December of 2009 that Federal Transfer payments for 2010-11 would remain the same and characterizing this fact as a cut is misleading,” explained Ward. The Province knew how much money they would be dealing with in December and should have planned appropriately.”

President Ward said “Sheridan also continues to blame the Public Service on P.E.I. for the deficit. He continues to stir up resentment against the Public Service despite the fact that real wages for Government employees have actually fallen by 1.22% since 1991 when you consider the change in wages relative to the change in the consumer price index.”

“The Province does not seem concerned about doling out millions of dollars to both big corporations and their friends. Nor do they appear to be concerned about creating a level playing field for business on PEI since the same people continue to be rewarded. And if you ask them to examine their own conduct, as in the case of the PNP program, you will find little in the way of self assessment,” explained Ward.

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