



PEI Federation of Labour Newsletter August 2005 Issue

Current News

- On Monday, November 28, Islanders will vote in a plebiscite on whether the province's electoral system will change from the current first-past-the-post system to a two-ballot, mixed-member proportional system. Under the proposed mixed-member proportional system, 17 MLA's would be elected in their district, and another 10 would be elected from ranked lists provided by the parties, based on the results of the second ballot which will establish the percentage of the vote the party gets provincially.

- On Friday, November 4 and Saturday, November 5, the PEI Federation of Labour will hold its 41st annual convention at the Howard Johnson's Dutch Inn in North River. If your local has not received your credentials by September 15, 2005 or your local wishes to submit a resolution to convention please contact our office at 368-3068; fax at 368-3192 or e-mail at: peifed@pei.aibn.com. The deadline for resolutions will be October 5, 2005.

- On Monday, October 24, 2005, the Federal Labour Standards Review Commission will be holding public hearings in Charlottetown. The mandate of the Commission is to conduct a comprehensive review of Part III of the Canada Labour Code which sets out labour standards for workers and employers under federal jurisdiction. Federal labour standards currently address such issues as hours of work, minimum wage, unjust dismissals and annual vacation. Further information on these hearings has now been posted on the Federal Labour Standards Review website (www.flr-ntf.qc.ca). The Federation plans to present a submission to the Commission if any of our affiliates have any issues they want included in the federation's submission contact our office at 368-3068; fax at 368-3192 or e-mail at: peifed@pei.aibn.com.

- On Thursday, August 25, The Quebec Superior Court denied Wal-Mart a judicial review of a Quebec Labour Relations Board's decision that allowed the UFCW to certify some 200 staff at its Saint-Hyacinthe store near Montreal. Wal-Mart claimed eight employees were excluded from the union accreditation and if they had been allowed to vote, the union would have failed. The store in St-Hyacinthe became the only unionized Wal-Mart location in North America after a store in Saguenay, Que., was closed on April 29.

□ On Tuesday, August 17, UPSE held a news conference where they announced that they are prepared to file a charge with the International Labour Organization against the provincial government because the government is failing to live up to international labour laws in its efforts to slash hundreds of public sector jobs. Also at the news conference, UPSE called on the government to begin negotiating in good faith. UPSE has launched a Web-based radio station on its website at <http://www.peiupse.ca/> that outlines its concerns with the province. TV and newspaper ad campaigns are also in the works.

□ On Friday, August 12, a new statistical analysis of the job market for young workers in Canada, released by the CLC to mark International Youth Day shows that being a Canadian under 25 means you're better educated, paid less and less likely to find a job you can count on compared to your parents' generation back in the 1970s and 80s. According to the report, young working men, aged 15 to 24, earn 25% less than the young men of the same age group did a generation ago (in real terms, adjusted for inflation). Young women seem to do a bit better, earning 20% below what was paid to young women in the workforce thirty years ago. This short yet comprehensive study covers issues of unemployment, poverty, education and training, job quality, hours of work, job security and unionization. "Better Educated, Badly Paid and Underemployed: A Statistical Picture of Young Workers in Canada" is available online at www.canadianlabour.ca.

□ On Thursday, August 11, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board announced their Quarter 1 Results. The CPP reserve fund, which includes investment earnings and CPP contributions not needed to pay current pensions, grew by \$5.7 billion to \$87 billion during the last three months. Over the past five years the CPP reserve fund has earned a real rate of return of 4.6 per cent which exceeds the 4.1 per cent real rate of return required to sustain the CPP over the long term. The most recent report of the Chief Actuary of Canada has confirmed that the CPP is sustainable for 75 years. CPP contributions are expected to exceed benefits paid until 2022, providing a 17-year period before a portion of the investment income from the CPP reserve fund is needed to help pay CPF benefits.

□ On Wednesday, August 10, The Globe and Mail reported that as many as 41,000 federal government jobs could be axed in an effort to save up to \$4 billion annually. The published report cited a two-year study led by Treasury Board which found that at least 41,000 of the roughly 290,000 federal employees could be eliminated if the work was transferred to a single agency. The Federal government was quick to say that it is not government policy and it's just one of many studies being carried out but there is concern being expressed by the PSAC about recent job losses and the growing trend to centralize government services in larger centres.

❑ On Thursday, July 28, the federal government announced that they will be shutting down 9 of 16 Public Service Commission offices across the country, including the only one in P.E.I. The closure will mean the loss of 94 full-time jobs across Canada including four in Charlottetown. Public Service Commission is usually the first point of contact for Canadians looking for jobs with the federal government. The Charlottetown office won't close until the four employees are reassigned to other departments, which could take months. The commission will now have just one Atlantic Canada office in Halifax.

❑ On Thursday, July 28, Kristin Roe swam across the Northumberland Strait becoming the first person to do so in more than a decade. Roe made the swim in support of people with HIV/AIDS, and hoped to raise \$20,000. Half of that was to go to people on P.E.I. and the other half to the Stephen Lewis Foundation for support of people in Africa. At the Federation's June meeting Council voted to donate \$100 to the cause.

Press Release on the Federation's Book Donation

❑ On Wednesday, August 31st at the UPEI Robertson library, the PEI Federation of Labour donated 85 books, 28 videos and 8 CD's on labour and social issues to the PEI Provincial library and to the UPEI Library valued at approximately \$2300.00. The Federation would like to thank Executive Council member Leo Cheverie and CLC representative Jean Claude Basque for all the work they put into this project. We would also like to thank all the unions and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives who so generously donated material for this donation.

❑ Here is the press release the federation released Monday, August 29 on the donation:

- " We consider it to be very important for the general public to have access to material that addresses labour and social issues." Carl Pursey, President

-Charlottetown - On Wednesday, August 31st at the UPEI Robertson library, the PEI Federation of Labour will make a donation of books, videos and CD's to the PEI Provincial library and to the UPEI Library valued at more than \$2000.00.

- " Public libraries are a vital component in providing free access to information for not only our children but also for all citizens in our province. For us, having free access to information is one of the most important cornerstones to educating all Islanders so that they are able to make informed and enlightened decisions that will shape the direction of PEI's future." stated Mr. Pursey

-The Labour movement has always fought and will continue to fight to make sure that governments provide sufficient funding and resources for public institutions such as

libraries to make sure that the public continues to receive access to the best books and material available.

- " The labour movement is continuing to publish or help publish material on issues important to all Canadians that sometimes is not as easily available to the public as we would like. Therefore in our donation we will supply our Island libraries with material that ranges from videos on the Canadian labour history in the last 100 years, to books on personal stories of involvement in the labour movement, health and safety issues, women's issues and a range of books on contemporary social issues. Our donation also contains the last five years of publications by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives on CD ROM and hard copy."

-This first Labour Day donation is our modest effort at providing the general public with material that are not available right now to them in our libraries and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the unions and organizations who donated so generously to this important project and those who worked so hard to make this donation possible.

- "We plan to continue to make donations like this on a regular basis in the future. " concludes Mr. Pursey

Report From the Federation's 6th Annual Labour Day Corn Boil and Barbeque

☐ On Monday, September 5, 2005, the P.E.I. Federation of Labour held its 6th Annual Labour Day Corn Boil and Barbeque at Victoria Park in Charlottetown. Approximately between 300 and 400 people attended this year's event. There was musical entertainment, sausages, hot dogs, corn, and union trivia and kids games and races for prizes. At the event a member of the Canadian Media Guild gave an update on the lockout at CBC.

☐ The fed would like to thank the PSAC, Carpenters Local 1338, the CLC Atlantic Region, IUOE Local 942, UFCW Local 864 and IBEW Local 1432 for their generous prize donations; Carpenters Local 1338 and UFCW Local 864 for their monetary donations; and Garden Province Meats. The fed would also like to thank all our Executive Council members and affiliated members who continue to work so hard to make each years Labour Day celebration bigger and better than the last.

☐ Here is Federation President Carl Pursey's 2005 Labour Day Message:

-The strike by Aliant workers, the cutback in the provincial government employees and

the current lock-out of Canadian Media Guild members by CBC are just the recent examples of the hard bargaining employers are pushing on Canadian workers

-PEI's future depends on its citizens being able to find good jobs with good wages and sense of job security that will provide Islanders with the means to provide for their families, put down roots, and plan and build a better future for themselves and their families.

-Good jobs, with family-supporting wages, are the foundation upon which prosperous and progressive countries like Canada are built.

-Unfortunately, full time jobs with good pay, benefits and pensions are under increasingly vicious attacks by employers. These jobs are being destroyed only to be replaced by contract work, which offer no security, no benefits and no pensions.

-Instead of the security of a long-term job and steady income for loyal workers who are attempting to raise families, pay mortgages and put down roots, more and more workers today face the dismal prospect of contract work. It's a recipe for insecurity. Throughout society, workers, their families and the communities they live in are facing uncertain futures.

-At a time of record profits and low new investment the latest trends demonstrates that more and more employers in our ever changing economy no longer see the value in the loyal, long-term, skilled and stable workforce that have worked so hard to create those record profits. This is a dangerous trend that if unchecked, will not only hurt the work standards of unionized workers, but will also drive down wages, benefits and work standards for all workers on PEI.

-As the PEI Federation of Labour celebrates Labour Day 2005, we must commend those who are fighting to protect secure jobs and create a better future and we urge all working people to make a personal commitment to stem the tide now so our children have a real chance for a decent standard of living in the future.

-We also invite all workers and their families to come out and celebrate Labour Day on Monday, September 5 at Victoria Park from 4 to 6 p.m. There will be entertainment, hotdogs, sausages, corn, refreshments, prizes and lots of fun.

C.L.C. Atlantic Region and P.E.I. Federation of Labour Educational

-The C.L.C. Atlantic Region and P.E.I. Federation will be holding a two day educational at the Howard Johnson, Dutch Inn, Charlottetown, P.E.I. on Thursday, October 13, 2005

- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Friday, October 14, 2005 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (Friday, lunch included). The courses being offered are:

Clear Language For Union Communications

The labour movement relies on written material to inform our members and to encourage them to participate in the workplace, the union and in the community. As union activists, we want the written word to work with us in organizing and educating workers to understand and defend their rights.

Clear language and design are important tools to help us think about who our audience is and to make the union's message more reader-friendly and accessible to our members. They will become familiar with the tools and techniques of writing in clear language and more aware of clear design, developing their skills as advocates for "clearly union" communications.

Health & Safety - New Strategies for Building Enforcement and Bargaining

The New Strategies for Building Enforcement and Bargaining provides both new and experienced activists with new tools to deal with health, safety and environment skills. Using an organizing and building activism theme, the course covers leadership skills, problem solving and representation skills for activists who are union representatives on joint health and safety committees and environment committees. The course also covers how to get government inspectors to enforce health and safety laws. For bargaining, the course allows participants to build their skills in preparing for negotiations, writing contract language, and developing bargaining strategy.

Registration Information

Please complete the attached form and send it before September 29, 2005 along with a cheque made payable to the P.E.I. Federation of Labour to cover the registration fee (\$35.00 per person which includes lunch on Friday October 14, 2005) to:

Marjorie Gyurus, Registrar P.E.I. Federation of Labour 22 Enman Crescent
Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1E 1E6

If you require additional information, please contact:

Marjorie Gyurus at (902) 368-3068
or
Jean-Claude Basque at 506-861-7086.

Update on the Fed's Labour Movement Donation Drive to Establish a Day of Mourning Monument

-On Saturday, November 6, 2004, at our annual convention the federation kicked off its labour movement donation drive to pay for a Day of Mourning Monument to honour all workers who have been injured or have died on worksites across PEI to be installed around Province House hopefully by the next Day of Mourning ceremony. We feel that it is very important for labour to come together and supply this very important monument to workers who paid the ultimate price. The goal for the drive is \$8,000.

-On Monday, January 10, 2005, Charlottetown City Council passed a resolution at their regular monthly Council meeting to provide upkeep and maintenance on the Day of Mourning Monument.

- Thus far, the fed has received donations from:

Union	AMOUNT
Bricklayers Local 1	\$100.00
Canadian Labour Congress	\$500.00
Canadian Union of Public Employees PEI Division	\$500.00
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 501	\$100.00
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 805	\$500.00
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1145	\$100.00
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1770	\$200.00
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1779	\$185.00
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1870	\$287.00
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 2523	\$50.00
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3324	\$50.00
Canadian Union of Postal Workers Charlottetown Local	\$150.00
Canadian Union of Postal Workers Summerside Local	\$100.00
Communications, Energy & Paperworkers Union Local 61	\$10.00

Communications, Energy & Paperworkers Union Local 401	\$100.00
International Association of Machinists Local 1934	\$100.00
IATSE Local 906a	\$40.00
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 942	\$500.00
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1432	\$500.00
PEI Nurse's Union	\$150.00
PEI Teacher's Federation	\$100.00
PEI Union of Public Sector Employees	\$1,500.00
Public Service Alliance of Canada Area Council	\$550.00
Canadian Employment and Immigration - PSAC Local 90152	\$50.00
Canadian Employment & Immigration - PSAC Local 90153	\$80.00
Canadian Employment and Immigration - PSAC Local 90154	\$50.00
Union of Canadian Transport Employees PSAC Local 60905	\$100.00
Union of Parks Canada PSAC Local 90023	\$80.00
Union of Taxation Employees PSAC Local 90002	\$200.00
Union of Veteran Affairs Employees PSAC Local 90001	\$750.00
United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America - Local 1338	\$300.00
United Food and Commercial Workers - Local 864	\$1,000.00
Total	\$8,982.00

- The Federation of Labour would like to thank all of the affiliated, and nonaffiliated locals and the CLC who have donated to the cause so far and we hope that the rest of the Island Labour movement will show their support for this very important cause.

- So far the average contribution has been approximately a dollar per member but any contribution would be greatly appreciated.

- The commitment that has been shown to this important project thus far has been overwhelming with all the pieces coming together very nicely. With the City of Charlottetown's generous offer of upkeep and maintenance on the monument, the Island Labour movement showing tremendous support for our donation drive and the deal with the Province for land around the Coles building nearing completion, the monument should be in place shortly.

- If you wish to receive copies of our brochure or want to arrange for a fed representative to come to your meeting to discuss the monument. Please contact the fed's office. If you wish to keep up on what is happening with our drive please visit

<http://www.peifl.ca/pages/dom2/dom.html>

Important Dates

6th Annual Labour Day Corn Boil and Barbeque	Monday, September 5, 2005	from 4:00 - 6:00 P.M., at Victoria Park in Charlottetown.
CLC Atlantic Region and P.E.I. Federation Educational	October 13 - 14, 2005	
Canada Labour Code Review Hearing	October 24, 2005	Charlottetown (If There is Sufficient Interest)
PEIFL Annual Convention Friday and Saturday November 4 and 5, 2005	Friday and Saturday November 4 and 5, 2005	
UPSE Annual Convention	Friday and Saturday November 18 and 19, 2005	Delta Prince Edward Hotel
Plebiscite on PEI's Electoral System	November 28, 2005	