



PEI FEDERATION OF LABOUR NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2004 ISSUE

CURRENT NEWS

- On Friday, October 22, 2004, The Canadian Labour Congress - Atlantic Region along with the Cape Breton, New Glasgow and Strait Area Labour Councils are hosting a Farewell Dinner for Brother Everett Baker at the Claymore in Antigonish, N.S. Tickets at a cost of \$35.00 per person can be purchased by mailing a cheque payable to the Strait Area District Labour Council, c/o Betsy MacIntyre, 1042 Springfield Road, R. R. # 1, St. Andrews, N. S. B0H 1X0, or c/o CLC, 2282 Mountain Road, Moncton, N. B. E1G 1B4. Tickets must be purchased by September 22nd. A Block of Rooms in the name of the CLC has been set aside at the Claymore, but must be reserved by individuals not later than September 22nd by calling 902-863-1050.
- On October 14, (7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) and 15, 2004 (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), the C.L.C. Atlantic Region and the P.E.I. Federation of Labour will be holding a two day educational at the Howard Johnson, Charlottetown, PE. The courses being offered are: the Steward as Educator - Steward Training: Level IV and Dealing with Management Strategies in the New Millennium. For registration information, please contact the fed at (902) 368-3068. The registration deadline is September 24, 2004.
- On Tuesday, October 12, 2004, Pink, Breen, and Larkin will be holding a Labour Law workshop at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel in Halifax. The workshop will present its participants with the latest developments in labour law in Atlantic Canada and the rest of Canada also. Names of attendees should be submitted by September 27th to Jackie Nielsen at 1-800-565-4529.
- On, Thursday September 23, 2004, Agriculture Minister Kevin MacAdam confirmed that all parties have agreed to a deal which could save Garden Province Meats and the 110 jobs it provides. The deal, which includes a provincial \$275,000 unsecured loan, \$250,000 of working capital from Garden Province Meats, \$280,000 for the purchase of value-added processing equipment, and a \$4 less per hog concession from the hog producers, will keep the plant open for at least the next several months and will buy time for the industry to explore all of its options.

- On Wednesday, September 22, 2004, the PEI Federation signed a new 3 year deal with its office secretary Marjorie Gyurus. Majorie will receive a 3.5% increase in each of the next three years.
- On Friday, September 17, 2004, it was announced that Sandy MacKay has been re-elected president of UPSE for his third consecutive term and sixth term overall. A total of 2,363 members voted in the mail-in ballot with MacKay receiving 1,249 votes, Judy Turpin finished second with 944 votes, and Mike DesRoches finished third with 159 votes. There were 11 spoiled ballots.
- On Tuesday, September 14 and September 15, 2004, the fed in association with the PEI Health Coalition held Media Watch. The event held in PEI was part of nationwide events held in conjunction with the First Minister's Conference to show politicians how much Canadians care about Public Health Care and let them know that Canadians are watching them. More than 50 people attended the two day event.
- On Tuesday, September 14, 2004, the provincial government announced a major change to the dental health care program for children aged 3-16. In addition to their annual registration fee, families with a combined income of over \$30,000 will now have to pay their dentist 20% of the cost of their children's treatment services while families who make less than \$30,000 can apply for an exemption to the 20 per cent co-pay. All preventative dental care such as cleaning, fluoride and sealant treatments will remain free regardless income level.
- On Saturday, September 11, 2004, it was announced that the Quebec Labour Relations Commission has rejected Wal-Mart's challenge to the union certification of its store in Jonquière, Québec dismissing Wal-Mart's argument that the bargaining unit certified at the store was not valid because it didn't include store management personnel.
- On Saturday, September 11, 2004, it was announced that the unemployment rate on PEI for August was 11.3% up from July's 11.2%. You currently need 490 hours to qualify for EI on PEI.
- On Thursday, September 9, 2004, the Vice President of the fed along with Mary Boyd (PEI Health Coalition), Leo Broderick, and Nancy Ingall (CUPE), met with Premier Pat Binns to discuss concerns facing Public Health care and the position Premier Binns should take on the issue at the First Minister's meeting.

- On Wednesday, September 8, 2004, the P.E.I. Federation of Labour had a meeting with Elmer MacFayden, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs. Attending for the fed were President Carl Pursey(CUPW), Vice President, Blair Penny (IBEW); Treasurer Daryl Coles (Carpenters); Executive Council members, Vimy Gregory (UFCW)and Leo Cheverie (CUPE); and Paul Beauregard business rep(IUOE). The topics discussed included:
various topics from the government's response to our brief to cabinet, the Day of Mourning Monument, the removal of exemptions in the Employment Standards Act for overtime in seasonal industries, completion rates in the trades, privacy concerns over companies not giving their names in job ads, concern over unions not being able to enforce their contracts due to over enforcement of privacy regulations, duty to accommodate workers who can't work in a specific area due to special circumstances, harassment legislation to prevent bullying by the employer or fellow employees, the enforcement of National Building Standards across the Island and construction should only be done by qualified personnel, and we wanted to know how the residential OHS inspection program went this summer.

- On Monday, September 6, 2004, the P.E.I. Federation of Labour held its 5th Annual Labour Day Corn Boil and Barbeque at Victoria Park in Charlottetown. Approximately 300 people attended this year's event. There was musical entertainment, sausages, hot dogs, corn, and lots of prizes. At the event the fed presented Noel Pauley, president of CEP 401 with a \$500 cheque for their strike fund, the Carpenters presented a 50 years service plaque to Reuben Watts, one of their founding members, and a PSAC Parks Canada representative gave an update on their strike. The fed would like to thank UPSE, PSAC, and IBEW 1432 for their generous prize donations; Carpenters Local 1338 and PSAC Veteran's Affairs for their monetary donations; CEP 401 for their donation of pinatas; and Garden Province Meats for their donation of sausages. The fed would also like to thank all our Executive Council members and affiliated members who helped make this years Labour Day celebrations such a success.

- On Monday, August 30, 2004, it was announced that the Supreme Court has upheld the Labour Relations Board's dismissal of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, NB/PEI's preliminary objections to PSAC's attempt to unionize the approximately 150 Commissionaires working on PEI. PSAC is currently waiting to get a date with the Labour Relations Board to hear their certification application which was filed with the board in March 2003.

- The P.E.I. Federation of Labour Executive Committee currently has a vacancy on our committee for Secretary. Any affiliate

member who would like to volunteer their time and energy to this position would be greatly appreciated. This position will be up for election at our annual convention this November. Please contact our office at 368-3068; fax at 368-3192 or e-mail at: peifed@pei.aibn.com.

UPDATE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE CEP 401 STRIKE AGAINST ALIANT

-On Thursday, September 16, 2004 it was announced that the striking Aliant workers voted 76% in favour of accepting the company's latest contract offer ending their 5 month strike.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ALIANT STRIKE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

-A single defined benefit pension plan with a 1.75% formula for future service. There will be a defined contribution plan with an improved contribution formula of 6/6% for former NB Tel workers who never were in the defined benefit plan and for all new hires.

-No contracting out of work that would jeopardize the continued employment of regular employees. Restrictions on contracting out of work following the introduction of any voluntary retirement incentive plan. As well, the company will provide information to the union about outsourcing of major contracts of work normally performed by members.

-Establishment of standard entry level qualifications for each classification for job posting purposes which places more emphasis on seniority. Members can apply for all posted job openings, including lateral transfers. Moving expenses of up to \$5,000 will be paid to successful job posting applicants having to relocate.

-Bumping rights are preserved and extended to all members.

-A cap of \$400 per year on employee cost of prescription drugs. The company is prohibited from diminishing benefit levels.

-Aliant must now negotiate any future voluntary retirement incentive schemes. During this contract, Aliant will implement one VRI providing eligible employees with four weeks wages for every year of service to a maximum of 78 weeks pay. The number of employees affected by this scheme will not exceed 500.

-A 4% cap on the hiring of Temporary Student employees between September 7 and April 30.

- Remote monitoring of Operators and contract center employees will end 12 months after starting a customer contact position.
- Scheduled Days Off will be standardized over the life of the agreement so that, in the last year, everyone at Aliant will be eligible to receive 6 SDO's per year.
- The contract will end on Dec. 31, 2007 with wage increases of 2.5% for 2004, 3% effective Jan. 1, 2005, 2.8% effective Jan. 1, 2006, and 2.8% effective Jan. 1, 2007. In addition wage increases of 2.5% and 2.5% will be retroactively applied for the years of 2002 and 2003.

UPDATE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH PSAC LOCAL 90023'S STRIKE AGAINST PARKS CANADA AND PSAC CCRA'S STRIKE

- On, Monday September 27, 2004, the fed received a letter from Vaughan Davies, President of PSAC Local 90023 informing us that in all likelihood their union will be targeting the Festival of the Fathers of which The Government of Canada and Parks Canada are major sponsors and asking the fed to ask all Affiliated Locals to boycott (including participation in as well as volunteer time) the event. They also asked that we issue a press release, which we are currently working on.
- On Tuesday, September 21, 2004, it was announced that Parks Canada was forced to bring 4 out-of-province managers into P.E.I. on the weekend to give their local counterparts a break.
- Recently the fed received a letter from Hillsborough MP Shawn Murphy thanking us for the letter that the fed sent him in support of the members of PSAC Local 90023 and updating us on what he has done in regards to the strike.
- On Thursday, September 9, 2004, picketing began at midnight at the Summerside Tax Centre as the approximately 1000 Island workers with the Canada Revenue Agency began rotating strikes. The agency employees are among about 25,000 across the country, who entered a legal strike position early Wednesday morning. The employer has offered a three-year contract with increases of 2.25 per cent, 1.75 per cent and 1.75 per cent while the union is asking for 4.75, 4.5, 4.5 per cent over the three years. Other issues include pay zones, improvements for term employees and job security. The previous contract expired Oct. 31, 2003.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW FEDERAL - PROVINCIAL HEALTH ACCORD

- From September 13 - 16, 2004, Federal, provincial and territorial first ministers met in Ottawa in an attempt to reach yet another agreement to resolve health care funding and delivery woes. Here are the Highlights of the Health-Accord they reached.
- \$41 billion in new federal cash transfers over 10 years, including \$2.1 billion in the current fiscal year which ends March 31 and rising to \$8.3 billion in 2013-14.
- A report in each jurisdiction to be developed by Dec. 31, 2005, setting out comparable indicators of access to health-care professionals, diagnostic and treatment procedures.
- Establish common benchmarks by Dec. 31, 2005, for wait times in the areas of cancer, heart, diagnostic imaging, joint replacements and sight restoration.
- In the following two years, use the common wait-time benchmarks to set multi-year targets to achieve priority benchmarks.
- Each jurisdiction will set targets for the training, recruitment and retention of health professionals by Dec. 31, 2005.
- By 2006, each jurisdiction commits to providing two weeks worth of "first dollar" (or deductible-free) coverage for acute home care and acute mental health home care.
- By 2006, each jurisdiction commits to providing deductible-free end-of life nursing and personal care and palliative-specific drugs.
- Work toward a national pharmaceuticals strategy, including establishing a national drug formulary for participating jurisdictions. A report on progress to be delivered by June 30, 2006.

IMPORTANT DATES

P.E.I. FEDERATION OF LABOUR 5TH ANNUAL LABOUR DAY CORN BOIL AND BARBECUE	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2004	4:00 - 6:00 P.M. AT VICTORIA PARK, CHARLOTTETOWN
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MEETING WITH ELMER MACFAYDEN, MINISTER OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2004	AT 2PM
FIRST MINISTERS MEETING	SEPTEMBER 13-16, 2004	OTTAWA
MEDIA WATCH	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 & WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. EACH DAY	AT PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA (PSAC) ONE HARBOURSIDE DRIVE, CHARLOTTETOWN
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ACT WORKSHOP	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	AT THE LOYALIST INN, SUMMERSIDE. DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR ALL OHS WORKSHOPS IS SEPTEMBER 17, 2004
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ACT WORKSHOP	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22TH 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON	AT THE ROLLO BAY INN, SOURIS
CLC INDUSTRIAL POLICY CONFERENCE	SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2004	FAIRMONT CHATEAU LAURIER HOTEL, OTTAWA
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ACT WORKSHOP	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH 9:00 A.M. - 12 NOON	AT THE BEST WESTERN, CHARLOTTETOWN.
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ACT WORKSHOP	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	AT THE RODD'S MILL RIVER RESORT, WOODSTOCK.
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ACT WORKSHOP	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH 9:00 A.M. - 12 NOON	AT THE RODD MARINA INN & SUITES, MONTAGUE.
FALL LUNCHEON FOR LABOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND JOURNALISTS	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2004	NOON AT THE BEST WESTERN CHARLOTTETOWN HOTEL

PINK, BREEN, AND LARKIN LABOUR LAW WORKSHOP	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2004	WESTIN NOVA SCOTIAN HOTEL, HALIFAX DEADLINE FOR NAME SUBMISSION SEPTEMBER 27, 2004
P.E.I. FEDERATION OF LABOUR EDUCATIONAL	OCTOBER 14-15, 2004	AT THE HOWARD JOHNSON, CHARLOTTETOWN, PE ON OCTOBER 14, (7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.) AND 15, 2004 (9:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.) DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 24, 2004
CLC NATIONAL PENSION CONFERENCE	OCTOBER 17-19, 2004	FAIRMONT WINNIPEG HOTEL, MANITOBA
FAREWELL DINNER FOR EVERETT BAKER	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2004	AT THE CLAYMORE, ANTIGONISH, N.S. DEADLINE FOR TICKETS AND ROOMS SEPTEMBER 22, 2004
2004 PEIFL ANNUAL CONVENTION	FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5 AND 6, 2004	
CLC NATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS CONFERENCE	NOVEMBER 11-14, 2004	FAIRMOUNT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOTEL, MONTREAL, QUEBEC DEADLINE OCTOBER 12, 2004
UPSE CONVENTION	NOVEMBER 12-13, 2004	DELTA PRINCE EDWARD HOTEL IN CHARLOTTETOWN
NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2004	