



# PEI FEDERATION OF LABOUR NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2005 ISSUE

## **CURRENT NEWS**

- On March 8, (7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) and 9, 2005 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 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: Building Unions in a World of Change - Steward Training: Level I and Social & Economic Well-Being of Women in the Atlantic Region. For registration information, please contact the fed at (902) 368-3068. The registration deadline is February 21, 2005.
- As per the response from our last meeting with Elmer MacFadyen, the fed has set up meetings with the Education Minister/ Attorney general, Mildred Dover. The first will be on February 4, 2005 to discuss Apprenticeship. The second will be on February 10, 2005 to discuss Pension Legislation. If any of our affiliates have any issues they wish us to bring to the Minister on these issues, please contact our office at 368-3068; fax at 368-3192 or e-mail at: [peifed@pei.aibn.com](mailto:peifed@pei.aibn.com).
- It was recently announced that Barry Smith(UPSE) has been appointed to the Occupational Health and Safety Council as an employee representative. He was one of the four names the fed sent in for the position back in August, 2004 and will replace Kim Sampson whose three year term expired on August 14, 2004.
- On Monday, January 17, 2005, it was announced that CUPE.ca has won Labourstart's annual competition for labour web site of the year. It is CUPE's second win in a row.
- On Monday, January 17, 2005, it was announced that a second Quebec Wal-Mart store in Saint-Hyacinthe has been unionized after a majority of workers signed union membership cards in the course of an organizing drive by UFCW Local 501. The UFCW Canada is currently seeking legal recognition at 12 other Wal-Mart locations in Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.
- On Wednesday, January 12, 2005, it was announced that the P.E.I. Labour Board has ruled in favor of the Public Service Alliance of Canada's union certification of the employees of the Corps of

Commissionaires. The approximately 160 Island Commissionaires are now preparing to negotiate their first contract.

- On Tuesday, January 11, 2005, 4 representatives of the fed attended a meeting to discuss the creation of Sector Councils on PEI. At the meeting, an overview of Sector Councils was given, the composition of the sector board and executive was decided with Fed President Carl Pursey being voted in as Vice President of the Association of Sector Councils. The fed's representatives stressed the importance of organized Labour having a significant say in the Sector Council's decision making process and the importance of employee representatives coming from organized labour. This was also expressed in a letter sent to the Association before the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. The next meeting will be January 25, 2005.
- On Tuesday, January 11, 2005, it was announced that the United Steelworkers of America and the Paper, Allied Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union (PACE) have decided to merge. The new merged union will have over 850,000 active members in over 8,000 bargaining units in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. PACE and Steelworker members will vote on the proposed merger at concurrent conventions to be held in April.
- On Tuesday, January 11, 2005, it was announced that the unemployment rate on PEI for December was 10.5% the same as November. You currently need 525 hours to qualify for EI on PEI.
- On Monday, January 10, 2005, it was announced that the IUOE has asked its members not to participate in any of the government's "program renewal" activities because they feel the government has already made up their minds on renewal and just want their member's involvement to pretend that employees have a say in the process.
- On Wednesday, January 5, 2005, representatives of CUPE, met with Premier Pat Binns to discuss "program renewal". During the meeting, the premier refused to rule out cutbacks to or privatization of the public service. The recommendations from the "program renewal" steering committee will go before cabinet in early February.
- On Thursday, December 23, 2004, the fed received a letter from CLC Atlantic Regional Director, Linda Gallant asking us to nominate a woman who is a member of a CLC affiliate to replace Sister Brenda Walker, who recently resigned due to work commitments, on the Charlottetown EI Board of Referees. Her term

will expire July 30, 2006. If any female member of your union is interested in this position please contact the fed office to receive the Curriculum Vitae form. Sister Gallant also encourages the nominee to complete the Equity Self-Identification form. Deadline for applications is January 26, 2005. If you have any questions please contact Brother Basque or Sister Gallant at (506)858-9350.

**UPDATE ON PSAC'S NEGOTIATIONS**

- Approximately 80,000 Table 1 administrative and clerical staff and nearly 10,000 Table 3 grain inspectors will vote on what the federal government has called their final offer from December 6 - 17, 2004, and resume January 3 - 26, 2005. Negotiators for PSAC have recommended their members reject this offer.
- 3,600 PSAC Canadian Food Inspection Agency members will vote on their tentative deal from December 6 - 17, 2004, and resume January 3 - 26, 2005.

**UPDATE ON THE FED'S AFFILIATE 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.
- Thus far, the fed has received donations from:

UNION	AMOUNT
BRICKLAYERS LOCAL 1	\$100
CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS	\$500
CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 501	\$100
CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 1870	\$287
CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS CHARLOTTETOWN LOCAL	\$150

IATSE LOCAL 906A	\$40
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 1432	\$500
PEI TEACHER'S FEDERATION	\$100
UNION OF CANADIAN TRANSPORT EMPLOYEES PSAC LOCAL 60905	\$100
UNION OF PARKS CANADA PSAC LOCAL 90023	\$80
UNION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES PSAC LOCAL 90001	\$750
UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS & JOINERS OF AMERICA - LOCAL 1338	\$300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3007</b>

-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 fed has had meetings with the Province to discuss getting the land and has recently sent a letter to Charlottetown City Council asking for a motion to be brought before council for the city to provide upkeep and maintenance on the monument. Both levels of government appear to be on board with the main stumbling block being getting an agreement for the land.

-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**

<b>INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY</b>	<b>MARCH 8, 2005</b>	
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C.L.C. ATLANTIC REGION AND P.E.I. FEDERATION EDUCATIONAL	MARCH 8, 2005 -7:00 PM - 9:00 PM MARCH 9, 2005 - 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM.	AT THE HOWARD JOHNSON, DUTCH INN, CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.
ONE WEEK ATLANTIC LABOUR LAW COURSE	APRIL 10 - 15, 2005	MEMARAMCOOK INSTITUTE, SAINT JOSEPH, NB
DAY OF MOURNING FOR WORKERS KILLED AND INJURED ON THE JOB	THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2004	
LABOUR COLLEGE OF CANADA GRADUATE PROGRAM	MAY 9 - JUNE 3, 2005	ALGONQUIN COLLEGE , OTTAWA
C.L.C. ATLANTIC REGION AND P.E.I. FEDERATION EDUCATIONAL	OCTOBER 13 - 14, 2005	