



PEI FEDERATION OF LABOUR NEWSLETTER JULY 2004 ISSUE

CURRENT NEWS

- On Wednesday, September 8, 2004 at 2pm, the PEIFL has scheduled a meeting with Elmer MacFayden, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs. If any of our affiliates have any issues they wish us to bring to the Minister, please contact our office at 368-3068; fax at 368-3192 or e-mail at: peifed@pei.aibn.com.

- On Monday, September 6, 2004 from 4:00 - 6:00 P.M., the P.E.I. Federation of Labour will be holding its 5th Annual Labour Day Corn Boil and Barbeque at Victoria Park in Charlottetown. So bring a lawn chair and meet your brothers and sisters as we celebrate Labour Day 2004. There will be Entertainment, Games for the Kids, Hot Dogs, Corn and Fun For All.

- 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. The fed would like to express its appreciation to Shelley Ward (UPSE), who last held this position, for her past efforts in this role and for her current efforts in the role of Chairwoman of the fed's Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

- The P.E.I. Federation of Labour recently sent out sympathy cards to Doreen Wall and Phil Flemming, former members of the federation's Executive Council, on the recent deaths of Ira Wall and Ethel Flemming. The fed also sent a donation in memory of Ira Wall to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation and a donation in memory of Ethel Flemming to the Canadian Cancer Society. The fed's condolences go out to them on their respective loss.

- As per our action plan, the President, the Vice President, the corresponding Executive Council members, and when work commitments allow the Treasurer, have started to meet with the executives of our affiliates to discuss what the fed has been up to and to answer to any concerns they may have with the

direction of the fed. Thus far, we have met with UPSE (June 11), the Carpenter's union (June 14), IUOE (June 23), and UPSE's Board of Directors (June 29). The June 29th meeting with the IBEW was cancelled due to a death and will be rescheduled. The fed has also made contact with CUPE and PSAC to set up meetings but no firm dates have been set yet. So far, the response we have been getting has been fairly positive and we have gotten a chance to discuss some issues of interest with our affiliates.

-On Saturday, July 24, 2004, it was announced that Island MLA's have received a 1% increase to their salaries and allowances. Also as of April 1, 2004, the MLA's \$11,000 expense allowance will be included in their pensionable earnings.

-On Tuesday, July 13, 2004, it was announced that the unemployment rate on PEI for June was 12.0% the down from May's 12.6%. You currently need 455 hours to qualify for EI on PEI.

-On Tuesday, July 13, 2004, the fed received a letter from Elmer MacFayden, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, asking us to submit names for the position of employee representative on the Occupational Health and Safety Council as Kim Sampson's three term will expire on August 14, 2004. The deadline for name submissions will be August 6, 2004. If any of our affiliates have names they would like the fed to submit to the Minister, please contact our office at 368-3068; fax at 368-3192 or e-mail at: peifed@pei.aibn.com.

-On Thursday, July 8, 2004, it was announced that Alex MacAulay, president of Holland College has decided not to extend his contract. MacAulay who has been president of the college since 1995 will stay on until July 2005 or until a successor is named.

-On Wednesday, July 7, 2004, it was announced that the provincial government is appealing a court decision that ruled legislation limiting compensation in political discrimination cases is unconstitutional.

-On Tuesday, July 6, 2004, a 58-year-old Saint John man suffered a heart attack and died while delivering a load of building material to the Home Depot worksite.

-On Wednesday, June 30, 2004, it was announced in a report released by the Canadian Institute for Health Information that Islanders not only spend the most per capita on prescription drugs in 2003 (\$688), they also received the smallest percentage of coverage in Canada from their provincial government at only 29.8%. Manitoba had the highest government coverage at 53% of

prescription medication costs with New Brunswick at 34%, Nova Scotia at 39%, and Newfoundland at 42%. Currently, PEI covers over 2,900 drugs on the formulary plan.

-On Monday, June 28, 2004, it was announced that New Brunswick Premier has decided against a public auto insurance system. The decision against public auto insurance was based on two actuarial reports that say it would cost consumers more on average. According to the reports, the average premium prices under a public system would be \$1,047 while the current average private insurance prices are \$1,011. Instead of Public Insurance the NB government will tighten regulatory controls and force companies to offer inexpensive, no-frills options.

-On Monday, June 28, 2004, it was announced that no negotiations have taken place to date between Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and the Customs Excise Union a component of PSAC. The union representing more than 900 Canada Customs and Revenue Agency employees have been without a contract since Nov. 1, 2003. The union is looking for improved working conditions, job security, promotion for term employees with CCRA and an 8% increase a year for three years plus a cost of living allowance, retroactive to when the contract last expired. They are currently waiting to go to a conciliation board and can not go on strike until seven days after the conciliation board tables its report.

-On Friday, June 25, 2004, it was announced that dates have been set for Conciliation Board hearings, beginning on July 12, 2004, in attempt to settle outstanding issues between the members of PSAC working at Parks Canada and their employer. The Board will have 14 days from the date of its appointment to consider the evidence and issue a report. The union could be in a legal position to strike in early August. Some of the issues in the dispute includes wage parity with other comparable federal employees, a better cost of living allowance, improvements to allowances for high risk work, the elimination of pay zones, and improvement to the status of many seasonal and short-term employees. On July 19th, the union met with Island MP Shawn Murphy to see what he can do to help.

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

-On Tuesday, July 27, 2004, The Telephone Workers Union, based in western Canada, announced it would contribute \$1 million to sustain the striking Aliant worker's strike fund.

-On Friday, July 23, 2004, striking CEP 401 members held a demonstration in front of Aliant's Charlottetown headquarters and then took part in a barbeque in Victoria Park paid for by the Insurance Company of PEI. The Insurance Company of PEI has come out publically in support of the strikers and in addition to paying for the barbeque, they are prepared to amend premium credit terms for the strikers during the strike.

-On Thursday, July 15, 2004, the fed received a letter from CEP National President Brian Payne asking the fed to send out an appeal to all our affiliates for donations to CEP 401's strike fund. The Appeal went out to our affiliates on Friday, July 16, 2004 and on Wednesday, July 21, 2004, the fed sent out a \$500 cheque to show its support. If you wish to make a donation send your cheque to Noel Pauley, President, Local 401, 777 Wildon Street, Summerside, PEI, C1N4H5. Please make the cheques payable to the "CEP Local 401 Strike Fund".

-On Thursday, July 15, 2004, preliminary talks between Aliant and its striking unions broke off with very little progress. The unions and Aliant met with a federal conciliator for the better part of 2 days. No new talks are scheduled for now.

-On Tuesday, July 6, 2004, it was announced that the union representing the striking workers at Aliant have filed a complaint with the Canadian Industrial Relations Board claiming that the company's use of its subsidiaries' (Xwave and Innovatia) employees is an unfair labour practice. The matter is currently being looked into by a board investigator.

-(Note on Xwave): Xwave is an unit of Aliant that provides system integration, software engineering and other technology services to firms. It has 1600 employees in the Atlantic region and generated more than \$365 million in revenue last year.

-On Tuesday, June 22, 2004, the PEIFL released a press release in support of CEP 401. It appeared in the June 23, 2004 of the Guardian.

-On Friday, July 16, 2004, it was announced that the CRTC has received 1,650 complaints about poor service since the strike against Aliant began. Many of the complaints are about long waits for repairs or service.

HOW TO HELP THE STRIKING MEMBERS OF CEP LOCAL 401

-The PEI Federation of Labour asks its affiliates to show the

striking workers as much support as possible. They have a website at <http://www.cep401.com>. To help you can:

- Call 1-800-565-4737, or any Aliant customer service line instead of Internet self-service options.
- Continue to make normal inquiries about your Telephone, Internet, and cellular bundles.
- Continue to report any troubles regarding your Telephone, Internet or Cellular accounts as per normal.
- Insist that you are able to make your bill payments at an Aliant Phone Center, not an agent at the mall, or at the bank. If this is not available, pay bills by cheque.
- Remind Aliant managers of their right to refuse to do a striking worker's duties under the Canada Labour Code.
- Demand rebates where applicable. When service outages are the responsibility of Aliant and your trouble is greater than 24 hours, refunds should be automatic. Call 1-800-563-9793 for your refund.
- File a complaint with the CRTC @ 1-877-249-2782 if you have problems receiving your rebate.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A MILLENNIUM BURSARY

- At some recent meetings, the fed has been asked for information on how to apply for the Millennium Bursary Program.
- The Millennium Bursary Program does not have its own application form. Students are automatically considered for millennium bursaries when they apply for financial assistance in their province or territory of residence.
- Here are the steps involved in applying for and receiving a millennium bursary:
 1. Apply for student financial assistance in your province or territory of residence. Your province or territory of residence is the jurisdiction in which you last spent 12 months without attending a post-secondary institution. Your application for student assistance will be evaluated by provincial/territorial student financial assistance services.
 2. If you meet the Foundation's eligibility criteria and are determined to be one of the students in your province or

territory with the highest assessed financial need, your province or territory will forward your name to the Foundation for approval. The Foundation will advise you if you are awarded a millennium bursary.

3. In April, the Government of Prince Edward Island, acting on behalf of the Foundation, will pay students' bursaries directly to their provincial loan provider. The province will notify the students once the payment has been made.

-For more information on the Millennium Bursary go to <http://www.millenniumscholarships.ca/en/generalb/pinfo/pei/>

CHANGES TO BC'S CHILD LABOUR LEGISLATION AND HOW PEI COMPARES

-Recently members have expressed concern to us over the changes to BC's Child Labour Legislation and wanted to know how we fare with our own legislation here is a comparison.

BC - Parental consent will be the only ``permit'' required. Proof of parental consent will not be filed with the Employment Standards Office and it will be incumbent on the employer to produce it in the event of a complaint.

PEI - No permit is required but Employment Standards does recommend the employer get a letter of consent from the worker's parents.

BC - All employees over the age of 12 will be governed by the same adult-oriented employment standards. While the legislation allows for regulations to be established in the future, there are currently no plans to write regulations outside of children employed in the film and television industry.

PEI - Almost all employees under the age of 16 are governed by the Youth Employment Act. The exceptions are employment pursuant to any course of study at a trade school registered under the *Trade Schools Act* and employees in an enterprise in which only members of the employer's family are employed.

BC - A child as young as 12 years old will be allowed to work full-time at any occupation under provincial jurisdiction, no matter how dangerous, with only the consent of one parent. That includes farm labour, using power tools or other heavy machinery, working in a paint plant, or door-to-door sales.

PEI - No one is to employ a child under the age of 16 in any work that risks the child's well-being. No employer is allowed to employ a child in construction. An inspector or occupational health and safety officer may enter any premises in which a young person is employed to ensure compliance with the Employment Standards Act or the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

-If the occupational health and safety officer determines that any toxic substance, machinery or equipment in use in any industrial undertaking or used in any plant engaged in the processing of fish, agricultural products or forest products is potentially dangerous to young persons, the officer may prohibit the employment of young persons in that undertaking or plant.

BC - An employer of a child must not require or allow the child to work on a school day at a time when the child is scheduled to attend and must not require or allow the child to work: more than 4 hours on a school day, more than 7 hours on a day that is not a school day unless the employer receives prior written approval from the director, more than 20 hours in a week that has 5 school days, and in any case, more than 35 hours in a week.

PEI - No employer shall employ a young person: between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.; during normal school hours except pursuant to a recognized vocational training or apprenticeship program; for more than: three hours on any school day, eight hours on any day other than a school day, forty hours in any week.

-The inspector may, upon application, exempt the employment of any young person from these rules if he/she is satisfied that the employment: will not prejudice the attendance of the young person at school or the capacity of the young person to benefit from instruction at school and has been consented to by the parent or guardian of the young person or if the inspector has received a document in writing signed by the parent or guardian of the young person consenting to the employment.

RESULTS OF THE JUNE 28, 2004 FEDERAL ELECTION

LIBERALS	CONSERVATIVES	BQ	NDP	INDEPENDENT
135 SEATS	99 SEATS	54 SEATS	19 SEATS	1 SEAT

-The Liberals win a minority government. All four seats on PEI went Liberal again.

-On Tuesday, July 20, 2004, Paul Martin reappointed Egmont MP Joe McGuire to the cabinet post of minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and gave Shawn Murphy and Wayne Easter parliamentary secretary positions.

UNIONS CARE

-On Monday, June 21, 2004, it was announced that Maritime Electric's ninth annual charity golf tournament raised \$30,000 for Crohn's and Colitis, Heart and Stroke, and the Children's Wish Foundation. Since 1995, employees of Maritime Electric have raised \$300,000 for health-related charities.

IMPORTANT DATES

DEADLINE FOR NAME SUBMISSIONS FOR THE POSITION OF EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COUNCIL.	August 6, 2004	
LABOUR DAY	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2004	4:00 - 6:00 P.M. AT VICTORIA PARK, CHARLOTTETOWN
MEETING WITH ELMER MACFAYDEN, MINISTER OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2004	AT 2PM
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	