



PEI Federation of Labour Newsletter July 2005 Issue

Current News

- The PEI Federation of Labour would like to inform to whomever it may concern that our mailing address is changing from P.O. Box 21094, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 9H6 to **22 Enman Crescent, Charlottetown, PEI, C1E 1E6**

- The PEI Federation of Labour would like to welcome CUPE Local 3324 (Neil's Ambulance) and its 23 members into the federation as our newest affiliate.

- 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.fls-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 Monday, September 5, from 4:00 - 6:00 P.M., the P.E.I. Federation of Labour will be holding its 6th 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 2005. There will be Entertainment, Games for the Kids, Prizes, Hot Dogs, Corn, and Fun For All. If your local has union hats, shirts, jackets, etc (Especially something for kids) that you are willing to donate for prizes at our celebrations or you wish to make a monetary donation towards labour day expenses, please let our office

know at 368-3068 by Wednesday, August, 31, 2005. All donations/prizes will be gratefully accepted and appreciated.

□ On Friday, July 22, it was announced that at a time when over 800 public employee's jobs are being eliminated through early retirement and layoffs, the Indemnities and Allowances Commission, an independent commission set up to review the salaries and benefits of elected officials, has handed P.E.I.'s provincial politicians a one per cent increase in their salaries. The basic MLA salary increases to \$36,689 from \$36,326. The MLA's annual, non-taxable expense allowance increases to \$11,476 from \$11,362. The biggest change the commission made was effective April 1, P.E.I. politicians who have served five years and been elected a second time will be able to receive a full pension at the age of 55, cut from aged 60.

□ On Tuesday, July 19, the New Brunswick Federation of Labour sent the fed a press release announcing their boycott of the Chateau Bathurst in support of the 34 members of the UFCW - local 1288-P who have been on strike since June 1st. They are asking union members and the general public who visit New Brunswick to boycott this establishment until the strike is settled. The owner of Le Chateau Bathurst is requesting that his employees accept pay cuts, without a guarantee of a minimum hours of work, as well as without job security as such. For further details please call Michel Boudreau, President, NBFL at 857-2125 (W) or at 381-8969 (cell.), or the strikers' representative, Andre Gingras - 863-8822 (cell.)

□ On Wednesday, July 20, it was announced that UPSE has won two awards from the Canadian Association of Labour Media for its "Value of Public Services" Campaign. The 2004 campaign included newspaper, radio, and TV ads that challenged the Binns government's claims that the province was in financial trouble. The TV ads also showed some of the valuable work performed by their members. The campaign received the Dennis McGann Stroke-of-Genius Award for the most innovative communications project and the TV ads received the Best Public Advocacy Audio-Visual Production Award.

□ On Monday, July 11, it was announced that Ted Crockett, International Representative for IUOE, was named to the board of governors for the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council for 2005-2006 at their recent annual general meeting in Saint John.

□ On Monday, July 11, a scaffolding course organized Carpenters Union Local 1338 started. The month-long course is being put on to prepare 30 of their members for work on construction projects in the oil sands of Alberta and in Ontario where employment for skilled trades positions such as scaffolding is much more abundant and salaries and benefits are much higher than on PEI. The Carpenters Union is hoping to start another

four-week scaffolding course at a later date.

- ❑ On Friday, July 8, it was announced that Rick Adams has been named as the director of program renewal and access information for the Department of Provincial Treasury. Previously, he was the director of finance and administration with the Queens Health Region and provided analytical services to the recent program renewal process.
- ❑ On Friday, July 8, Ontario Superior Court Justice Sarah Pepall rejected arguments from the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers that certain NAFTA provisions violate the Constitution. Those provisions, known as Chapter 11 and adopted in 1994, established special tribunals to hear complaints from private corporations seeking redress for government policies deemed harmful to their business interests. The legal challenge, heard in January, arose from a \$200-million claim against Ottawa by giant U.S.-based courier company UPS, which claimed that Canada's publicly funded mail system amounted to an unfair subsidy that gives Canada Post an unfair advantage over private-sector courier companies. The plaintiffs argued that such a claim could damage Canada Post's ability to deliver cost-effective services across the country.
- ❑ On Friday, July 8, it was announced that more than 300,000 federal public employees and members of the RCMP and Armed Forces will face steep increases in their pension contributions over the next 8 years. The increases which begin in January, will mean that the employees' share of pension contributions will increase from about 28% to 40% by the end of 2013. The Treasury Board's decision comes just before the start of an union led court case which alleges that the federal government misused a \$30-billion surplus in the pension plans and took a holiday from making pension contributions while employees continued to pay their full share in the 1990's.
- ❑ On Thursday, July 7, Alberta became the sixth province to sign a child care deal with the federal government. Alberta's deal is the first one to explicitly stipulate the money may be directed to for-profit operators under the name of "choice" for parents which may open the door to giant commercial chains to secure "investor rights" under trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organization's agreement on services, making it harder to make the program public. One of the few positive things in the deal is that the federal funding is at least earmarked for child care that is licensed and regulated.
- ❑ On Tuesday, July 5, the provincial government announced that even after more than 700 public employees took voluntary retirement, it will still lay off 330 of its employees. Layoff notices were given to 280 public employees in the Health department, 20 in Agriculture, and 30 from various other departments. Of those laid off, about 225 will probably move to vacant positions left by employees who took early retirement or

voluntary severance leaving 100 people plus who will not have employment with the provincial government when the layoffs take effect in late October or mid-November of 2005.

☐ On Wednesday, June 29, same-sex marriage legislation, Bill C-38, passed final reading in the House of Commons by a 158 to 133 vote. Supported by most members of the Liberals, the Bloc Québécois and the NDP, the legislation passed easily, making Canada only the third country in the world, after the Netherlands and Belgium, to officially recognize same-sex marriage.

☐ On Tuesday, June 28, the Federation received a letter from Elmer MacFadyen, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs inviting us to submit two nominees for the employee vacancies on the Labour Relations Board. The fed recently submitted the names of Paul Chaisson (Carpenters) and Carl Pursey (CUPW) to the Minister as our nominees.

☐ On Thursday, June 23, 2005, members of IBEW Local 1432 handed out pamphlets to nonunion construction workers at the Racino, construction projects at UPEI and at various jobsites in the Western part of the Island. The pamphlets were designed to show nonunion workers the benefits of union membership.

☐ On Wednesday, June 8, the PEI Federation of Labour received a letter from Elmer MacFadyen, 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 Mike MacQuaid's (his name was not submitted by the fed) term of appointment will expire on August 14, 2005. The fed recently submitted the names of Ron Penny (IBEW 1432), Craig MacKenzie (UPSE), and Dwayne Stride (UPSE) to the Minister as our nominees for this position.

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