



PEI FEDERATION OF LABOUR NEWSLETTER JUNE 2004 ISSUE

CURRENT NEWS

- The PEI Federation of Labour is calling on its affiliated members to sign the Canadian Health Coalition's online Medicare Protection Pledge petition. The website is at <http://www.petitiononline.com/pledge4/>.
- 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 fed would like to thank Jane Young (UPSE) for filling our vacancy on the Agricultural Human Resource Council. The fed still has a vacancy to fill on the United Way Board if any affiliated member is interested please let the fed know.
- 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) and the Carpenter's union (June 14). Meetings have also been setup with IUOE (June 23), UPSE's Board of Directors (June 29), and IBEW (June 29). 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 with the main concern being our affiliation drive.
- On Thursday, June 17, 2004, the PEI Teacher's Federation ratified a new 3 year contract with the Provincial Government. The new contract includes a 2% per year raise for three years, salary grid adjustments, a 75 % top up for the first 15 weeks of

maternity, parental, and adoption leave, added bereavement leave, increased life-insurance benefits, and additional professional development funding.

- On Wednesday, June 16, 2004, approximately 50 members of the union of Parks Canada employees, PSAC Local 90023, held a noon information picket at the Green Gables site in Cavendish to raise public awareness about stalled negotiations affecting 4,500 Parks Canada employees throughout the country and 80 on PEI. The dispute is in the hands of a conciliation board, which will prepare a report later this summer clearing the way for an eventual strike by late July. 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 Thursday, June 10, 2004, the PEI Health Coalition and PSAC held a federal candidates forum on the future of Medicare in Charlottetown. The 2 hour forum included all candidates running in the Hillsborough riding with the exception of Conservative candidate Darren Peters. There was a good crowd there to ask the candidates questions on Medicare. In addition to the questions Michael MacBane of the Canadian Health Coalition spoke. There was another forum held on June 21 in the Malpeque riding.
- On Tuesday, June 8, 2004, a health policy analysis group at McMaster University in Hamilton announced that an all out shift to a for profit hospital system would drive up costs by \$7.2 billion a year. The same research group had previously showed that for profit hospitals would cause an additional 2,200 deaths a year in Canada.
- On Saturday, June 5, 2004, it was announced that the unemployment rate on PEI for May was 12.6% the same as April. You currently need 455 hours to qualify for EI on PEI.
- On Wednesday, June 2, 2004, there were renewed calls for the adoption of a public auto insurance system for PEI as CUPE hosted a public meeting in Charlottetown on public auto insurance. Paul Moist, national president of CUPE, gave an overview of the Manitoba public system as an example of how public auto insurance works. There were also speeches at the meeting from provincial NDP leader Gary Robichaud, Donald MacDonald, president of CUPE on P.E.I., the P.E.I. Seniors Federation, and a student from UPEI. There was also a Q and A session with those in attendance.
- On Wednesday, May 26, 2004, the Executive Council of the PEIFL

met with representatives of the WCB. Carol Anne Duffy of the WCB gave the Council a hour long presentation on how the WCB functions and the Council addressed some questions to OHS director George Stewart.

-On Wednesday, May 26, 2004, the fed held its 1st SPRING LUNCHEON FOR LABOUR REPS AND JOURNALISTS at MacLaughlins. Nine members of the Executive Council, 10 Union reps, and Bill MacGuire from the Guardian attended. At the Luncheon, Executive Council and CEP 401 member, Paul Landry updated those in attendance on what is happening in the Aliant strike. While we were disappointed with the lack of media attendance, the response we have gotten about the event has been very positive.

-On Saturday, May 22, 2004, it was announced that the Atlantic provinces and Ottawa are conducting a \$1.2 million study of the number of health care professionals the Atlantic Region will need in the future.

-On Friday, May 22, 2004, it was announced that a legislative committee is recommending Richard Montigny, Ann Nicholson, and Ann Sherman be named to the PEI Human Rights Commission. If accepted it will increase the total number of commissioners to 5 from 3.

-On Thursday, May 20, 2004, Premier Pat Binns announced that after public education and consultation, the provincial government plans to hold a referendum to see if Islanders want proportional representation on PEI.

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

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

"ALIANT WORKERS ON STRIKE DESERVE OUR WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT"

-Charlottetown, PE... "We are a hundred percent behind the 278 Prince Edward Island workers on strike with telephone giant Aliant" says Carl Pursey president of the PEI Federation of Labour. "The real problem is the Company" continues Mr. Pursey

-As the strike entered its ninth week, the Federation of Labour, which represents over 9,000 workers, would also like to express its disgust with Aliant's refusal to get back to the bargaining table with the strikers and get to the job of working out a fair and equitable deal for everyone.

- “The fact that Aliant has not made more of an effort to negotiate an acceptable agreement with their striking workers shows not only a lack of respect for their employees but also shows how little they care for their customers who have filed over 600 complaints with the CRTC about Aliant’s service since the strike began nine weeks ago.” said President Pursey.
- The Federation would like to remind everyone that the blame for this strike lies solely with Aliant and their outrageous desire to remove basic worker rights and job protection that Communication Energy and Paperworkers’ members have fought so hard for over the years. This is a fight union brothers and sisters cannot afford to lose.
- “If the service Aliant is supplying your home or office is not up to its previous standards before the strike, we are encouraging the public to show their support for these Island workers by filing a complaint with the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunication’s Commission by calling them toll-free at 1-877-249-2782,” concluded Mr. Pursey.
- On Monday, June 14, 2004, it was announced that the CRTC has received 500 complaints about poor service since the strike against Aliant began. Many of the complaints are about long waits for repairs or service. The number as of June 21, 2004 has gone to over 600 complaints.
- On Tuesday, June 8, 2004, CEP workers on strike against Aliant held a rally. The rally of more than 350 strikers and supporters started at the Sobey’s on Allen Street and moved its way up University to the Aliant building on Belvedere. Speaker’s at the rally included Carl Pursey, the president of the PEIFL; Ervan Cronk, CEP Atlantic Region Administrative Vice president; Noel Pauley, CEP Local 401 President; and the candidates from the federal riding of Hillsborough. At least 7 other unions had members in attendance at the rally.
- On Tuesday, May 25, 2004, it was announced that members of CEP Local 401 who are on strike against Aliant have won major concessions from the Supreme Court as the temporary injunction imposed against them has now become permanent. The concessions include the right to picket the homes of managers who are doing strikers work out of their own homes and Aliant must inform the union of which homes are being used for that purpose, the restriction against photographing and videotaping the managers as they cross the picket line or attend a work site has been

lifted, and the restrictions against profane language has been removed.

HOW TO HELP THE STRIKING MEMBERS OF CEP LOCAL 401

- CEP Local 401's strike against Aliant is in its 9th week and as of yet their employer has not seen fit to return to the bargaining table with them. They have recently sent us these suggestions as to how you can help remind Aliant as to how valuable the striking workers are. 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>.
- 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CARPENTER'S UNION

- Please be advised that the United Brotherhood of Carpenter's Local 1338 have established a residential construction company. This company is a non-profit venture, whose goals are to upgrade standards of pay and working conditions for carpenters in the residential sector (i.e. living wage, health and welfare, and pension). For all your residential carpentry needs please call

566-1414 or cell 626-9151.

UNIONS CARE

-On Tuesday, June 15, 2004, it was announced that the employees at the PEI Liquor Control Commission had recently donated \$4,000 to the IWK Health Centre Foundation.

IMPORTANT DATES

PUBLIC MEETING ON PUBLIC AUTO INSURANCE	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2004	7:00 P.M. BASILICA RECREATION CENTRE - ROOM 108 Guest Speaker: PAUL MOIST, NATIONAL PRESIDENT CUPE
PAUL MARTIN - TIME NATIONAL TOUR- GOING COAST TO COAST	SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2004	9:30 A.M. - 12:00 NOON BASILICA RECREATION CENTRE - ROOM 205
CEP STRIKE SUPPORT RALLY	TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2004	NOON AT SOBEY'S ON ALLEN STREET
CANDIDATES FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE WITH FEDERAL CANDIDATES IN CHARLOTTETOWN RIDING	THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2004	7:30 p.m. BASILICA RECREATION CENTRE - Room 205
CLC HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE	JUNE 11-13, 2004	OTTAWA MARRIOTT HOTEL DEADLINE JUNE 4, 2004
PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK	JUNE 14-18, 2004	
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS INFORMATION SEMINARS	TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2004	10 A.M. TO NOON ACCESS PEI SOURIS AND 2 P.M. TO 4 P.M. ACCESS PEI MONTAGUE

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS INFORMATION SEMINARS	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2004	2 P.M. TO 4 P.M. ACCESS PEI SUMMERSIDE AND 10 A.M. TO NOON BEST WESTERN MACLAUHLAN'S CHARLOTTETOWN
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS INFORMATION SEMINARS	THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2004	10 A.M. TO NOON ACCESS PEI O'LEARY AND 2 P.M. TO 4 P.M. HERITAGE INN, TIGNISH
CANDIDATES FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE WITH FEDERAL CANDIDATES IN MALPEQUE RIDING	MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2004	7:30 P.M. AT ELIOT RIVER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS INFORMATION SEMINARS	TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2004	10 A.M. TO NOON ACCESS PEI SUMMERSIDE AND 2 P.M. TO 4 P.M. ACCESS PEI WELLINGTON
PEIFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING	JUNE 23, 2004	7:00 P.M
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS INFORMATION SEMINARS	THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2004	2 P.M. TO 4 P.M. BEST WESTERN MACLAUHLAN'S CHARLOTTETOWN
FEDERAL ELECTION	JUNE 28, 2004	
LABOUR DAY	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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	