



THE ACCENT

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees
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The Accent is an internal publication of the Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees. Comments, questions, concerns and suggestions should be sent to: Cathy MacKinnon, UPSE Communications Officer - cmackinnon@peiupse.ca

Note to members distributing *The Accent*:
Because the material contained in this publication is often of a time-sensitive nature, **Please Post Or Distribute This Accent As Soon As Possible.**



Calling all UPSE members enrolled in the Public Sector Group Insurance Plan (PSGIP)

Benchmarking studies have been completed and now UPSE can address your concerns and provide you with accurate answers to your insurance questions.

- **Are you getting a good bang for your buck when it comes to health and dental insurance?**
- **Can improvements be made to the existing plan?**
- **Are you paying more for these services than other people in the province/region?**
- **Can the plan be adapted to allow retirees to participate with active members? - How much would it cost?**

Information sessions for UPSE members outlining the benchmarking results will be held across the province The following is a schedule of meeting times and dates:

February 23 - Kings County
3:00 p.m. Access PEI - Souris
6:00 p.m. Curling Club - Montague

February 24 - Charlottetown
3:00 p.m. Dutch Inn - North River
6:00 p.m. Dutch Inn - North River

February 25 - East Prince
3:00 p.m. Loyalist Inn - S'side
6:00 p.m. Loyalist Inn - S'side

February 26 - West Prince
3:00 p.m. St. Anthony's Hall - Bloomfield
6:00 p.m. St. Anthony's Hall - Bloomfield

In the near future, UPSE will be conducting a vote amongst our members in the plan to give direction regarding desired changes. The negotiators will then work with the Employer to see if these changes can be implemented. Attending an information session will allow you to make a well informed decision when it's time to vote!

UPSE is proud to represent members in both the Public and Private Sectors





CLC Weeklong Educational Memramcook Institute - St. Joseph, N.B. April 19-24, 2009

The UPSE Education and Occupational Health & Safety Committee is accepting applications for this year's CLC week long school. The courses being offered are:

Basic Collective Bargaining

This course develops an understanding of the Collective Bargaining Process, how it works and the skills you will need to participate in the process. Participants will learn about preparations for collective bargaining, key contract clauses, bargaining proposals from the membership and current bargaining issues. An opportunity is provided to analyze union and management tactics in a 'mock bargaining' session. This course will be of interest to new bargaining committee members and members elected to serve on bargaining teams. Participants are to bring a copy of their collective agreements and a calculator to this course.

Campaign Organizing

Campaigns require organizers. This course is designed to equip participants with in-depth organizing and coordinating skills for both union campaigns and election campaigns. The course will reinforce the importance of campaign strategic planning and the steps required to develop such a plan. The course will also strengthen skills in volunteer recruitment, leadership, problem solving techniques, coalition strategies, campaign organizing and getting out support.

Application Information

Each application must be accompanied by a short paragraph of the member's past union activity, goals for the future and a reasonable commitment to make use of the training being offered. Under no circumstances will applications without such a paragraph be considered. All UPSE policies regarding wage repayment, travel and child care will be in effect. Application forms are available online at the UPSE website at www.peiupse.ca - or by calling the union office at 892-5335 or toll-free at 1-800-987-8773.

Deadline for receipt of applications is February 24, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

February Dates and Deadlines

February 10 - Staff Relations Committee - 9-4 Rodd's Royalty Inn - Charlottetown

February 10 - Civil Service Casual Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - TPW Depot - Bridgetown

February 11 - Civil Service Casual Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Dutch Inn - North River

February 12 - Civil Service Casual Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Loyalist Inn - Summerside

February 12 - Chief Stewards Meeting - 9-4 - UPSE Office

February 17 - Welcome to UPSE Educational - 9-4 - Dutch Inn - North River (Registration Closed)

February 18 - Health Negotiating Team Meeting - 9-4 - Dutch Inn - North River

February 19 - UPSE Has A Heart Campaign - Cheque Presentations - UPSE Office 10 a.m.

February 20-21 - Annual UPSE Hockey Tournament - Georgetown

To register call Rick at 962-2827 or Pam at 888-8077. Cost is \$250.00 per team

February 23, 24, 25 and 26 - PSGIP Benchmarking Presentation - see schedule on page 1

February 24 - Deadline to apply for CLC week long educational courses

February 25 - Education and Occupational Health & Safety Meeting - 5:15 p.m. - UPSE Office

February 25 - Equality Committee Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - Access P.E.I. - Summerside