

Dear UPSE member:

On Thursday, May 19, the Binns government – much to our surprise and contrary to what we had been told previously – introduced legislation with potentially negative effects on your:

Salary

Job Security and Layoff Rights

Pension

Group Insurance Benefits and Premiums

Chances for Promotion and Career Advancement

Discretionary Leave

Union Representation

and many other benefits, rights and protections guaranteed under your collective agreement.

As a result, we have arranged a series of meetings for UPSE members across P.E.I. and we urge you to attend one of these meetings. (*Please see meeting details below.*)

[Members of UPSE Locals 8 and 11 should note that Local meetings set for May 31 have been cancelled and will now be held in conjunction with the meetings listed below.]

The Binns government’s refusal to honour collective agreements or even to work with UPSE representatives in a co-operative fashion – to say nothing of its plan to legislate changes instead of negotiating them – has the potential to produce very negative effects on these and other matters. The immediate effects will be felt by the 4,000 UPSE members covered by the Civil Service and Health and Community Services collective agreements but, as I’m sure you can appreciate, the long-term impact will affect each and every UPSE member (and every Island worker, for that matter).

If you feel that this is appropriate – or if you support the government’s dictatorial approach – you may not feel that it’s essential to attend these UPSE meetings. On the other hand, if you believe that this is an inappropriate approach for a government or employer to take, please try to attend at least one of these meetings.

These meetings will provide you with the latest information on these matters and invite your participation in devising a strategy to address this situation. For example, we’ve included a copy of the proposal we presented to government officials on May 17 but we’ll have to update you on what progress (if any) we’ve made in getting an agreement on these terms.

We will also need to discuss how to put together a Bargaining Team for the purpose of negotiating a new collective agreement. This new agreement will cover the 4,000 UPSE members in the former Civil Service and Health and Community Services bargaining units who will now need to be merged into one bargaining unit.

Thank you for your attention to this and I hope to see you at one of these meetings.

In solidarity,

Sandy MacKay, President,
Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Monday, May 30 –	Linkletter Motel and Convention Centre, Summerside	– 4:00 p.m.
Monday, May 30 –	Linkletter Motel and Convention Centre, Summerside	– 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 31 –	Rodd’s Charlottetown Hotel, Charlottetown	– 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 31 –	Rodd’s Charlottetown Hotel, Charlottetown	– 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 1 –	Whim Inn, Poole’s Corner	– 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 1 –	Rollo Bay Inn, Rollo Bay	– 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 2 –	O’Leary Lions Club, O’Leary	– 6:00 p.m.