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Contact:
Shelley Ward at 393-1161 or Cathy MacKinnon at 892-5335
or toll free at 1-800-897-8773

Decision to relocate Departments raises many questions for Union

The Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees says that the recent announcement to relocate two government departments is cause for concern, for both UPSE, and the members that will be affected.

“A move of this nature will be quite expensive and as taxpayers we have to question where the dollars are going to come from. We have 2300 members in the process of arbitration to settle a contract to replace one that expired over a year ago. If the government feels that they have the funds to relocate two departments, then they should have been able to reach a negotiated contract with our members,” states UPSE President, Shelley Ward.

“There are many issues that will need to be worked out before the actual relocations take place. Our members are already identifying things like traveling time and allowances, financial implications due to the interruption of car pooling arrangements, increased vehicle maintenance costs and/or possible relocation costs. There is also a very real concern for the effect this may have on families with young children requiring childcare services, and the disruption to family life in general.

We have been contacted by the Government and they have committed themselves to working within the collective agreement to address the issues that will arise as a result of the relocations.”

The Union is holding meetings next week for members that will be affected by the relocation. President Ward will be in attendance to listen to their concerns and bring them back to Government to be addressed.