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Union President disappointed with lack of action to protect vulnerable workers

With Occupational Health and Safety Week just around the corner, PEI Union of Public Sector Employees President, Shelley Ward was expecting more than the status quo response she received from the Provincial Minister of Tourism regarding members who work alone.

“UPSE expressed concerns to the Minister regarding the safety of members who work alone, especially those who are employed in isolated workplaces like provincial parks. We have had members tell us they have a real concern for their safety. This is just not acceptable and a more realistic arrangement needs to be developed,” says UPSE President Shelley Ward.

“The existing policy does not do enough to address this issue and we have brought this to their attention on many occasions. The government’s answer to addressing working alone is to provide these employees with a cell phone, but this is of no value if they are unable to use it to call for help. The government could easily resolve this issue by ensuring that two staff are always scheduled to work at times, and in locations, where safety may be an issue.”

“If this government is serious about providing safe working environments for its employees, then it will not delay in properly resolving this potential safety issue,” concludes Ward.