

# **CUPE** COMMUNIQUE

Canadian Union of Public Employees **CUPE.ca**

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## **PEI Government should not interfere with the Union's right to organize workers**

**CHARLOTTETOWN:** The Canadian Union Public Employees is asking the PEI Government to let the Labour Relations Board decide whether CUPE should be representing the substitute teachers.

"More than a year ago, substitute teachers in this province approached CUPE to represent them. We followed the process established under the province's Labour Act. More than 300 substitute teachers signed a card saying they wanted CUPE to represent them", explains CUPE Representative Stacy Delaney.

"CUPE was ready to proceed with the certification hearing in front of the Board but that didn't happen as the matter was further delayed. This is not fair to the substitute teachers who need representation", says Delaney.

"Now, the PEI Teachers' Federation (PEITF) also wants to represent them but instead of following the process established under the PEI legislation, they want the Government to change the School Act to accommodate them."

CUPE PEI President, Lori McKay, believes the Government should let the Labour Relations Board do its job. "The Labour Board is an independent legislative body which oversees the union's right to represent workers. We are asking the government not to interfere in this matter and to let the Board determine which union should be the bargaining agent for the substitute teachers."

"If the PEITF wants to challenge our application to represent the substitute teachers, they should do it through the Labour Board, not by lobbying the politicians", concluded MacKay.

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