

Charlottetown Area Office, 100 Capital Drive, Charlottetown, PEI C1E 1E7

MEDIA ADVISORY

May 19th, 2009

**Steve Davies to be in Charlottetown, Wednesday, May 20th
to Discuss Spread of
“Health Care Associated Infections” (HAIs), as Part of National Tour**

Charlottetown – “The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), in tandem with our National Health Issues Committee, is sponsoring a National speaking tour by an expert researcher on the connection between cleaning and health care associated infections,” says Bill McKinnon, CUPE National Representative.

Steve Davies is a senior research fellow at Cardiff University in Wales, U.K. He has worked with government bodies, parliamentary authorities, employers and unions, and also contributed to the Romanow Commission in 2001.

Davies will describe what health officials in the United Kingdom have done to contain the spread of deadly infections such as *C. difficile*, MRSA and VRE in health care facilities. In contrast, he will explain how Canadian governments are going down the wrong path with more overcrowding, understaffing, and in many cases, contracting-out of cleaning services.

Health care associated infections are the fourth-leading cause of death in Canada, with an annual infection rate of 220,000, resulting in 8,500-12,000 deaths each year.

Mr. Davies’ Island stop on his National tour will occur on **Wednesday evening, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Delta Prince Edward Hotel, 18 Queen Street, Charlottetown.**

Mr. Davies will be available for media interviews before the event or during the afternoon of May 20th; he will also be available for interviews after the evening event.

**For more information, or to schedule an interview with Mr. Davies, please contact:
Bill McKinnon at (902) 566-4006 or (902) 439-1055**