

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

---

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

### **CUPE is Sponsoring a National Long-Term Care Tour (In Support of Government Funded, Not-for-Profit, Long-Term Care)**

**Charlottetown** – “The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), in tandem with our National Health Care Issues Committee, is sponsoring a National Tour by Ms Toby Edelman, who will speak of the problems facing Canadians, as we move perilously closer to more for-profit Long-Term Care for our elderly Canadians,” says Bill McKinnon, CUPE National Representative.

Ms Edelman is a Senior Policy Attorney with the Center for Medicare Advocacy Inc. in the United States. Ms. Edelman has seen the adverse effects of a more privatized system in the US. Her advice to Canada: “Don’t go down the same road”!

“More than half of the long-term care facilities in the US are owned by chains. But study after study shows that for-profit facilities offer less staffing and provide poorer quality care than not-for-profit facilities. Too often, money goes to administration, overhead and profits -not care for residents,” says Edelman.

“In October of 2009, CUPE released a Research Document entitled ‘Residential Long-Term Care in Canada – Our Vision for Better Seniors’ Care’. CUPE’s campaign plans included lobbying the federal government to extend Medicare coverage to include medically necessary residential long-term care services.

Irene Jansen (Senior Research Officer for CUPE) will also be on hand in Charlottetown to provide insight into CUPE’s Research Document.

This event is free, and the general public is invited and encouraged to attend. We have also invited representatives from the Ghiz Government and Opposition Parties to participate, along with other Unions, the PEI Senior Citizens’ Federation, the PEI Health Coalition and more,” concluded McKinnon.

The PEI leg of this National Long-Term Care Tour will take place on **Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Delta Prince Edward Hotel in Charlottetown at 6:30 p.m.**

Refreshments will be provided.

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