

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

MEDIA ADVISORY

November 4th, 2009

**CUPE Local 1174 and the PEI Police Association
to Meet with Aaron Campbell,
Director of the Office of Public Safety re 911 Dispatch RFI**

Charlottetown – “The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1174, representing Summerside Police and Fire Services, in tandem with the Prince Edward Island Police Association (PEIPA), are scheduled to meet with the Director of the Office of Public Safety, Mr. Aaron Campbell, to discuss the government’s recent Request For Information (RFI) from potential service providers of a central 911 Dispatch System” says Bill McKinnon, CUPE National Representative.

“The only part of the 911 dispatch system the government’s RFI was supposed to be looking to centralize was, what is called the ‘Call Answer/Transfer’ component (officially referred to as the ‘Public Safety Answering Point’ or ‘PSAP’). This is the piece of the 911 system that a citizen will make first contact with and from where the call is transferred to the specific emergency service (Fire, Police or EMS) required by the caller.

However, one quick look at the introduction of the RFI itself, and you can see the RFI is seeking additional information from service providers of their ability to ‘**incorporate the dispatch services for volunteer Fire Departments**’ and to ‘**include the capability to incorporate Police dispatch functionality.**’ This is work presently done in Summerside by our members of CUPE Local 1174.

On September 28th we requested a meeting with the Premier, Attorney General Greenan and the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, Carolyn Bertram. Ms Bertram responded by letter dated October 9th advising us that Mr. Campbell’s office was handling this matter and was committed to arranging a meeting with Mr. Campbell to discuss our concerns. We have accepted this offer and the meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 5th, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the Office of Public Safety, 134 Kent Street, 6th Floor, Suite 600, Charlottetown.**

Representatives of CUPE Local 1174 and the PEI Police Association will be available for comment after the meeting, which should not last any longer than 45 minutes to an hour,” concluded McKinnon.

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