

NATIONAL PRIVATIZATION AND CONTRACTING COMMITTEE REPORT

Our committee met in Ottawa September 24th – 27th, 2008 at the Delta Hotel. Our talking points from this meeting were: Update from National Office and status of National anti-privatization campaign. Mary Catherine McCarthy gave a Regional update from members. From PEI we gave our report.

Since our last meeting in March of 2008, the Council of PEI Health Employees Unions (CUPE Health Council on PEI) has developed and begun to implement a two-phase campaign strategy to fight back against the Ghiz Government and their stated intention to consider P3's to replace our seven aging manors (long term care facilities).

Phase one of the strategy consisted of a short soft eight-week radio campaign along with political action, a web site and coalition building. The Health Council created a "Keep Our Manors Public" website for people to go for information. This was to provide on-going public education on P3's. There was also a built coalition support by the Council of Canadians, the PEI Health Coalition, UPSE, IUOE, the PEINU, the PEIPL and all Opposition parties in PEI. This campaign was a very active and the second phase of their campaign would be ready to roll out in the fall should the Ghiz government refuse to listen.

For Local 830, we are still fighting back on contracting - out work that belongs to our local. After PEI and other regional reports, we went on with points of discussion on advancing strategic direction; How is this happening? What can we do? There was a Health and Safety & Privatization discussion/workshop with Barry Doyle, Health & Safety Officer. We also had a discussion on water issues with the Council of Canadians water campaigner. There was a call to action; World Water Day in 2009, water watch 10th anniversary. We also did one and a half days of training with Morna Ballantyne working as a committee/education for action on P3's.

In the fall of 2008, myself and CUPE PEI and CUPE locals in PEI went by bus to attend the CUPE NB P3's summit. This was a great summit and thank you CUPE NB. In March 5th – 8th, 2009 the National Privatization and Contracting committee met again in Ottawa. Under regional reports, PEI gave an update from our last meeting in September of 2008. The Council of PEI Health Employees Unions (CUPE Health Council of PEI) continued and intensified their campaign strategy to fight back against the Ghiz government and their stated intention to consider P3's to replace our seven aging provincial manors (long term care facilities).

Phase one of this strategy was completed in June of last year and at that time of the last meeting of the committee, they were waiting on a final announcement by the PEI Government on whether or not they were going to build the new manors under a P3 model before committee moved into phase 2. On December 1, 2008, the news reported that in the Provincial legislature the Premier Robert Ghiz had decided that the seven new manors would not be built under a P3 model.

This was great news for the coalition for a job well done by all. While the Provincial Treasurer call a G3 (Government built, Government owned and Government operated) model Note: Treasurer Sheridan is quoted that P3's needs to be examined on a case by case basis to determine what is in the taxpayers best interest. I'm very glad that our coalition is going to continue to work together in the event of anymore P3's on PEI, because the Provincial Treasurer kept the door open for "P3's when in his final statement he said "There are other projects that may fit". Other talking points in our March meeting were in pensions and privatization. National committee discussions on brown bag workshops on P'3's.

There was a report to convention and convention planning. Committee also worked on a strategic planning session. Committee also worked on report to send to the NEB next meeting. There is a water watch summit on November 28 – 29, 2009. We will arrange to meet the 2 ½ days prior and those committee members whose local will pay the expenses for the summit can attend it. Thank you Bill McKinnon and Wanda Livingstone for all your help on this great committee.

In Solidarity

Blaine Parkman
CUPE Prince Edward Island

MUNICIPAL REPORT

On May 22, 2008, Local 830 signed its new collective agreement. On October 17, 2008 CUPE local 501 wastewater treatment plant workers went out on strike. I would like to thank you all for your support for this local on the picket line.

November 12, 2008, the five members of CUPE 501 settled their 27-day-old strike with the City of Charlottetown at its wastewater treatment plant. Included in the agreement are: full stand by pay adjustment and double time for Saturdays retroactive to January 1, 2007: 2% technological adjustment, wage adjustments of three, three and three % during the life of the contract, maximum work period and rest period language and improvements in bereavement leave language.

Also on going is the Police act negotiations with the Police Association and the PEI Government with great work by Police Association the Provincial Government is listening and is working with them now in putting together an act that will work for the Police & Government.

CUPE PEI Organizing committee with help from National staff in getting two new locals signed up. They are filed under PEI Labor Board, but are not certified yet with board. The new locals filed are: 4893 who has between 12 to 14 members representing the whole town of Kensington municipal workers and police, local 4932 has five members at the City of Summerside wastewater treatment plant. This is great news and we welcome 4893 and 4932 into our CUPE family on PEI once they become certified. Great work committee and National staff.

I here by am serving all my municipal locals notice. That I am in the start of my second year representing these local for CUPE PEI.

In 2010, I will be stepping down as Municipal Representative. It's time for municipal locals to start planning for a new municipal representative for 2010 CUPE PEI convention.

It has been an honor to work with all the municipal locals over the past year. May we all continue to work together to keep our public services public and keep P3's out of Prince Edward Island.

In Solidarity
Blaine Parkman
Municipalities and Police