



SPECIAL EDITION

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNION OF TAXATION EMPLOYEES!

This newsletter is going out to each of you, to your home, so that no one will miss this message.

- We need each of you to stand up and put up a fight for what you are entitled to and not complain that it is the “union’s” fault.
- We need each of you to stand up and support the activities during Collective Bargaining in your local, if you want a fair Collective Agreement.
- We need each of you to contact your MP if you want to protect your Pension.
- We need each of you to contact your MP if you want to protect your job and not be forced to do more with fewer people in the workplace.
- We need each of you to stand up and make your voices heard on the Pension issue and during the Collective Bargaining round.
- We need each of you to stand up and advise your friends, family and neighbours about the real truths of the Public Service Pensions.

We need each of you to stand up and take your role as a union member.

The Union Executive Leaders will do their part but the “union” cannot do this for you. You must take action yourself or you have no one to blame but yourself!



We have two major issues currently giving us grave concern that not only deserve your attention, but require your attention and action in order to have a positive resolution.

The first is the effect the latest Federal Budget will have on your wages and current benefits. The latest Federal Budget includes, among other things, a strangle hold on federal government spending. It ensures the continuation of ongoing cuts to federal public services that are depended upon by Canadian citizens, and budget restrictions which will affect your wages and/or benefits.

As well, since the Federal Government of Canada is our employer, as part of its efforts to reduce costs, it is actively examining ways to “better” manage all compensation costs including wages and benefits, as well as, more efficient ways to carry out its business (do more with less).

The layoffs and the not filling vacancies in some sectors of the Government have already started.

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SI VOUS PRÉFÉREZ AVOIR CE COMMUNIQUÉ EN FRANÇAIS, VEUILLEZ VOUS ADRESSER À VOTRE PRÉSIDENT- E DE SECTION LOCALE

(Continued from page 1)

Although this recent budget did not directly impact our Pensions, as we feared it might, the fight to protect our hard earned, deferred salary Pensions IS NOT OVER YET. The Government has done at least two things; they have set up a committee to look into the Pension issue, and they have openly stated the possibility of a two tiered Pension Plan to cover those who are already in the Public Service and another for those entering the Public Service.

Let me deal with the last one first. The workers before us fought hard for our current Pension and it is incumbent upon us, to fight hard to keep our Pensions for the workers that come after us. This is not a “me” issue. It is an issue of justice for all workers; past, present, and future for the payment of “deferred salary” known as a Pension.

A TWO TIERED PENSION SYSTEM IS NOT AN OPTION.



Nowhere in the press do you read that an MP has a Pension after six years in office. Nowhere in the press do you read that when they calculate the average Pension that is quoted in the press as the “Cadillac Pension of the Public Servants”; in that calculation are Deputy Ministers, Assistant Deputy Ministers and other very highly paid Management that are NOT representative of the working level of the Public Service.

Why is that?

I will guarantee that if you do nothing the Government of today will make changes to the Superannuation Act that will not be of benefit to you, the retired workers or the new workers coming into the CRA. You need to **phone, write or visit your MP and tell them “Hands Off My Pension”**. **You need to do it now and often!**

In simple terms, **YOUR CURRENT PENSION IS IN PERIL.**

The second issue that should be near and dear to your heart is the current round of Collective Bargaining. We have already started the bargaining process, but we need to make this very clear: WE, and by this, I mean ALL of us, and not just the bargaining team, need to become involved in the process, and provide support. The few members at the Table require the 100% active and visual support of the many. They cannot do it without you.

With the economic times the way they are, this will probably be the hardest round of Bargaining that we have ever faced. The recent Budget made sure of that. It dictates that ANY economic increase reached by our employer during bargaining will not be funded, in any way, by the Treasury Board and that all funds to cover the increase must come from the Agency’s operating budget. We may not be bargaining directly with the Treasury Board any longer but they have certainly curtailed the purse strings of all Federal employers, whether they are under their direct control or not.

Betty Bannon
National President

BARGAINING

Preparations for our bargaining process are well underway. If you refer to UTE Bulletin 08/10, (<http://www.ute-sei.org/English/Publications/bulletins/2010/B08.cfm>) you can see where we are now in the bargaining process. Hopefully you've read the first **BARGAINING INFO** Bulletin dated May 13, 2010. If not, you have probably not yet subscribed to receive **Bargaining Updates** directly to your inbox.

It's not too late to fix this. Visit <http://www.ute-sei.org/English/subscribe/> and subscribe.

In the BARGAINING INFO BULLETIN, we advised you that PSAC and CRA will exchange bargaining demands during the week of July 5. Following this, we can share the demands with you.



Brother Gordon and Sister Bannon have shared their visions of the Bargaining Process with the National Bargaining Committee. The Members of the Negotiating Team are well aware of the challenges, especially since the message from the Commissioner dated May 6, 2010 seems to be a premise for what awaits us at the negotiating table.

The team members are ready to exercise our **bargaining rights** and seek the **respect** due to workers at CRA, so that the value of your work is recognized. Contrary to what the Harper Government is implying, the public sector is part of the solution to the deficit, by our quality of work, our dedication, and our commitment. Negotiation is the recognition of the work done. It is not by cutting and not respecting the

workers that this neoliberal government will put the economy back on solid foundations.

Bargaining, it's a way of recognizing the work accomplished by the workers. ... Bargaining is our business, let's get informed and involved!

Do not forget to subscribe.

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow is our doubts of today."

In solidarity,

Denis Lalancette
2nd National Vice-President

LET YOUR SPENDING DO THE TALKING

You may have noticed a CFIB (Canadian Federation of Independent Business) logo on the door or window of one of the local stores you shop at. You probably didn't give it a second thought. What does CFIB have to do with you, right? PLENTY!!

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business, lead by Catherine Swift, has the Government's ear. When they publish articles like "Canada's Pension Predicament: The widening gap between public and private sector retirement trends and pension plans", **the focus isn't on how to improve private sector pensions**, but on how to **reduce YOURS**. When they publish an article, "based" on 2006 "custom" census tabulations showing "the federal government is the worst offender, with a wage and salary premium of 17.3 percent over similarly employed individuals in the private sector", you know that public perception of your wages will continue to be "**those overpaid public servants**".

You and I know better. We know that federal employees should not be the scapegoats, but **Catherine Swift and the CFIB are pushing to see your wages and benefits reduced.**

We need to **FIGHT BACK**, and the best place to start is to talk to those businesses that support Catherine Swift and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. Tell them that if they continue to support the CFIB that you cannot support them, and that you will take your business elsewhere. Tell them that limiting your salary and benefits means you have less money to spend at local businesses. Tell them that they need you! Hurt Catherine Swift where it counts, in her pocketbook as businesses stop funding her nonsense. It is time to stand up for yourself, you work hard for the Canadian public and deserve respect, you are not given anything you earn it.

GETTING REGULAR UPDATES

Would you like to know what is happening with your union? Would you like to know what was discussed at the last national committee meeting? Would you like to find out what topics were brought up at the last Presidents' Conference or Executive Committee meeting? We can send you an email whenever new items are posted to our website. Just select the **subscribe function** on our site.

If you would like to keep up to date with the latest bargaining information, we have a special list just for that.

<http://www.ute-sei.org/English/subscribe/index.cfm>

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note that all address changes should be done via e-mail to Sylvie Bastien (basties@ute-sei.org) or via the national web site. If you do not have access to an e-mail, please pass it on (with your PSAC ID) to a local representative or mail it directly to the National Office at 233 Gilmour Street, Suite **800**, Ottawa ON K2P 0P2.



PSAC LAUNCHES WORKPLACE FIGHT-BACK CAMPAIGN AGAINST JOB CUTS

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The Harper government has declared war against federal public sector workers and PSAC is fighting back. We will not allow the Conservatives to punish workers in a wrong-headed attempt to fix a financial crisis that is not our making. We will stand up for PSAC members in workplaces, on Parliament Hill and in the streets. But we need your help.

The Speech from the Throne and Federal Budget contained plenty of attacks that will negatively impact on the work of PSAC members across the country, at the federal, territorial and provincial levels. This includes a freeze on all departmental budgets and spending, as well as the goal of finding \$17.6 billion in savings over the next five years – “savings” being of course Conservative code for cuts and reductions in programs and services.

We are already seeing the impact of the federal budget on our members and the services they provide. In the Atlantic, 149 term and casual employees at Citizenship and Immigration’s Case Processing Centre in Sydney, Nova Scotia were just laid off. In Ottawa, the CEO of the Museum of Civilization and War Museum announced that any open jobs would remain unfilled. And the government just announced that it will be closing Canadian Human Rights Commission offices in Toronto, Vancouver and Halifax.



This is just the beginning. It’s clear that Harper is attempting to position his government to win a majority in the next federal election. We all must be working to not only save public sector jobs and protect public services, but also mobilizing to ensure Harper’s goal is never realized. This is a job for all of us. As workers, we must be engaged in our workplaces and at community and national levels. This is not a short-term campaign – our work to protect public services and deny Harper a majority government is going to take perseverance and determination.

Sisters and brothers, we have to fight. We must fight any cuts and reductions to public services and to the workers that provide them. We must enforce our job security rights in collective agreements. We must all speak out against cuts – to family, friends, co-workers and managers. Our message is loud and clear:

WE NEED PUBLIC SERVICES NOW MORE THAN EVER!

Don’t assume that this doesn’t affect you – because it does, both as a worker and as a user of public services.

In Solidarity,

John Gordon
PSAC National President

PUBLIC SECTOR CUTS THE PUBLIC SECTOR: AN EASY SCAPEGOAT

The current deficit wasn't caused by public sector workers. It was caused by private sector greed.

Many of the voices calling for attacks on the public sector now conveniently looked the other way while their colleagues sabotaged the global financial system for personal gain.

The federal government's overall national debt remains historically low at about 33% of GDP.

The part of the current deficit which won't evaporate naturally through economic growth, according to the Parliamentary Budget officer, is only 1% of GDP, small by comparison to the 7.5% and 4.5% levels of the nineties.

The operating costs of running the federal government in relation to the size of Canada's economy are close to the lowest they've been for the past fifty years.

By the time the federal government achieves its goal of reducing spending to 13.2% in 2014-15, it will be at the lowest level since 1949.

Finally, and most importantly, the deficit wasn't caused by spending on much needed public services it was caused by bad tax policies.

The 2010 federal budget is a losing proposition for many.



TAXES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

YOU CAN'T HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER

The Conservative and corporate chorus has a single prescription for any and all economic problems: Cut taxes! In fact, cutting taxes just creates more economic problems.

Cutting taxes ignores the fact that these taxes pay for services that individuals and communities need. Taxes allow governments to provide equal access to public services. Lower taxes sound good but not if you have to purchase individually the services that our taxes pay for such as safe water, roads, sanitation, health care and education. The reason we pay taxes is to pay for services that we collectively value as a society. Progressive taxation needs to be central to Canada's deficit debate.

Most Canadians derive the same dollar value from the public services that their taxes pay for, about \$15,000 per capita regardless of their family type or income. But, while governments are quick to talk about the cost of services, they fail to measure the flip side – the benefits these services provide.