



100 Eileen Stubbs Ave
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3B 1Y6
Labour Resource Centre: 424-4063
Toll-free 1-877-556-7438
E-Mail: lrc@nsgeu.ca
Website: www.nsgeu.ca

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
June 10, 2010

81% Strike Vote at Sherbrooke Village

Halifax – Museum workers at Sherbrooke Village in Guysborough County have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a strike if needed. All 73 members voted on June 7 and altogether 81% voted for job action if major changes are not made in the employer's offer at the table.

Negotiations for a first contract for these workers began in July of 2009 and continued last July, August and in February. Talks broke off after a few hours in February and conciliation started on May 3 and 4.

“This has been a very slow bargaining process with the Sherbrooke Restoration Commission”, according to NSGEU President Joan Jessome. “The Employer said they wanted a quick round of bargaining when we started but it has been anything but quick since then.”

Jessome noted: “The Commission receives most of its funding from the Provincial Government. However, it does not seem willing to try to obtain adequate funding to provide the same wages and benefits that other seasonal employees who work with the provincial government in other museums have already obtained. If other museum workers can obtain fair and decent benefits, why can't our members who help operate such an important historic and economic facility in Guysborough County?”

“We are hoping that this strong strike vote sends a strong message to the Employer that our members are serious about obtaining major improvements to their working conditions. The attitude of the Employer has to change in the next set of conciliation meetings, or they could be facing possible disruptions in the operation of the Village during the height of tourism season.”

The Union is waiting for more conciliation dates in the near future. Members of Local 50 provide a wide range of services at the Village that are vital to its operation.

-30-

The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union represents over 28,000 women and men who provide quality public services Nova Scotians count on every day.

For more information please contact:
Ian Johnson, Servicing Coordinator/Policy Analyst
1-877-556-7438 (toll-free) or 902-476-4355 (cell)
ijohnson@nsgeu.ca