



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:
May 11, 2010

NSGEU Local 60A, Pictou County Planning Department Employees, vote to strike

Halifax – NSGEU members of Local 60A, former members of the Pictou County District Planning Commission, now employees of Pictou County Shared Service Authority, have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a strike to support their bargaining demands.

The vote took place Friday, May 7.

“The planning department employees of the Pictou County Shared Service Authority should have similar conditions of work to those with similar jobs in other planning departments in the province and in their own county,” says Joan Jessome, President of the Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union (NSGEU). “In fact, we tabled proposals that almost mirror an existing contract with the Municipality of Pictou (one of the signatory municipalities in the new Pictou County Shared Service Authority).”

The employer’s proposal includes clawbacks in existing conditions of work including pensions, vacation, stat holidays, and compensation for standby. Wages are also outstanding.

“These employees are very important to the Municipality of Pictou. We are asking that they be given the same respect as in other planning departments. As of now, the employer has refused to engage in any meaningful contract negotiations,” continues Jessome. “We would welcome a serious approach to bargaining that is respectful of the women and men who provide the important planning services for the new Pictou County Shared Service Authority.”

Members of the bargaining unit include administrators, lab technicians, maintenance operators, planning techs and senior planners. These employees issue permits for the sub-division of land, issue building permits, do building inspections, and operate the waste treatment plant.

There are 13 members of the bargaining unit.

The union has requested the conciliator, Charlie Weir, file his report.

Once filed, a 14 day countdown is triggered, after which a legal strike could be held.

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

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