

Nov. 7, 2014

Ms. Jackie Podger  
Vice-President Administration and Finance  
University of Prince Edward Island

Dear Vice-President Podger:

The four campus unions (UPEIFA, CUPE 1870, CUPE 501, and IBEW 1928) request a meeting with the Employer to be updated on the status of the Pension Plan and to hear any concerns which the Employer may have with it.

We understand that the Employer is planning to issue a communication to Plan members. As the sole and exclusive bargaining agents for our respective bargaining units -- two of which are in negotiations -- the Employer does not have the right to communicate directly with members in regard to items that are subject to the collective bargaining process.

As you are aware, a joint-Union pension group has existed since 2007, and we were able to reach agreement with the Employer at the bargaining table on pension plan amendments in 2010, and again in 2012. As the Employer acknowledged, agreement on the 2010 amendments "was the result of collaboration of all the union groups and the Administration on a number of difficult and complex issues in an environment when pension plans across the country face serious funding and sustainability challenges." We are confident that at the present time when the UPEI Pension Plan has an excellent investment performance track record, and an improvement in the going concern funding basis, any challenges can be addressed by the Employer and the joint-Union group continuing to work together under the established bargaining framework. We hope that you agree.

Sincerely,




Leo Cheverie  
CUPE 1870 President



Betty Jeffery  
UPEIFA President



Donald Large  
IBEW 1928 Unit Chair



Jim Stavert  
CUPE 501 Shop Steward

cc: A. Abd-El-Aziz, UPEI President