



Press Release

For immediate release

CAPE Asking Members for the Means to Maintain Quality Services

Ottawa, May 31, 2013 – The approximately 12,500 members of the Canadian Association of Professional Employees (CAPE) are being asked to vote on a proposed progressive increase in dues that would make it possible for the union to maintain services at the level of excellence to which members have become accustomed. The vote will be held from June 3 to 20.

Two issues are on the ballot. Firstly, members are being asked to support an increase of \$8 in their monthly dues as of September 2013, and a further increase of \$5 per month commencing in September 2014. These two increases would gradually boost the amount of dues paid by CAPE members first to \$43 and then to \$48 per month. Even at \$48, the monthly dues paid by CAPE members would remain the lowest among all federal public service unions.

Secondly, members are being asked to vote in favour of introducing an annual dues increase, commencing in September 2015, that would be equal to the annual increase in the consumer price index.

“We are asking our members to give us the means to continue to negotiate better collective agreements, to provide support to members when they are having problems in the workplace, to represent them in dealings with their employer, to provide them with training, and to provide advice and opinions on their behalf in many forums,” said CAPE President Claude Poirier. *“All of this work costs money, and our revenue stream has been narrowed considerably by the loss of over 1,000 members over the last 18 months because of federal government budget cuts.”*

CAPE’s membership voted against a proposed dues increase of \$15 per month in September 2012. *“We are going back to the well, so to speak, to ask our members for approval once again,”* Mr. Poirier noted. *“But we are confident that this time we can do a better job of explaining the reasons why a moderate dues increase is needed. After the previous vote, our members advised us to change our approach and revise the terms and conditions of the increase, and that is exactly what we are doing here. I am convinced that CAPE’s members will approve this reasonable increase – only the second dues increase in the last 20 years.”*

The voting results will be announced to CAPE's members on June 21. If the dues increase is approved, the change will take effect in September 2013.

CAPE represents approximately 11,500 economists and social science services employees who advise the government on public policy and provide legal services to the government, 925 translators, interpreters and terminologists who provide the bilingual face of the government, and 90 analysts and research assistants at the Library of Parliament.

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