

## Media Release - Harper Government Attacks Women's Rights

The PSAC is holding a press conference at 9 a.m. EST in Iqaluit on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> concerning legislation currently being processed in Parliament.

The PSAC is encouraging opposition members to remove legislation from the budget bill that would prevent women in the federal public sector from demanding equal pay for work of equal value. The [Public Sector Equitable Compensation Act](#) will remove women's ability to file pay equity complaints, making the process even more difficult than the current complaints-based system.

The "pay equity" bill is part of the omnibus [Budget Implementation Act \(Bill C-10\)](#), which was tabled on February 6, 2009. PSAC refutes the notion that this legislation is "proactive," given that it ignores the recommendations made in the well-respected 2004 report from the federal Task Force on Pay Equity. The union contends that the new scheme would make a bad system much worse, removing pay equity's current status as a human right and opening it up to market forces.

"Pay equity is a constitutionally protected human right that we have spent decades fighting for" says Jean-François Des Lauriers, Regional Executive Vice President of PSAC North. "Human rights should never be negotiable, especially at the bargaining table where the employer historically holds the balance of power. If this legislation should pass, constitutionally protected rights for women everywhere will continue to erode unless opposition parties vote this legislation down".

**The press conference will be held at the PSAC's Iqaluit Regional Office, located in building #1412 Sikituuq Court. All media are encouraged to attend.**