

TIME FOR CHANGE

NIPSA
GENERAL
COUNCIL
ELECTION
BULLETIN

TIME FOR A FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC NIPSA – ELECTION 2007

VOTE FOR CHANGE

As NIPSA General Council elections begin (Friday 26 January) there is no part of the public service that is not facing the problems of attacks by the government.

NIPSA members are willing to defend jobs, services and pay but that militancy is rarely matched by the leadership of the union. For these struggles to reach a successful conclusion NIPSA needs to radically change. If it does not do so now members will continue to pay a very high price. The old tired ideas, keeping your head down, so called partnerships and endless concessions have achieved nothing. They must be pushed to the side and a vibrant membership led union developed. NIPSA must undergo a root and branch change. All levels of the union need to be revitalised.

A significant step towards developing the union would be the election of a leadership which is committed to fighting to defend our jobs and services and building a united, open, democratic and accountable union. NIPSA leadership must be prepared to concentrate the resources of the union on the issues that matter to members. The General Council election provides an opportunity to put such a leadership in place. **Time For Change activists are asking for your vote to help this process.**



Please use your vote to support the following Time For Change Candidates

Arkinson Catherine

Mulholland Padraig

Booth Brian

Murdock Janette

Brownlee Tommy

Reid Ricki

Collins, Lucia

Toal John

Crawford Brian

Vaughan Marie

Dale Paul

Please use your remaining 6 votes to support the following activist candidates

Dummigan Marcel

Gates, Carmel

Egan John

Killen Tanya

Largey Gerry

McCoy Bernard

Lawrenson Kevin

McGinley Patrick

Lynn Billy

Topping David

McCourt Colm

Ward William

Morgan Maria

Wilson Ryan

Inside- One Union One Struggle, Civil Service Under Private Sector Attack, PCS, Water Charges, What Is TFC

E mail tfc.nipsa@ntlworld.com Phone 07811463368 Write to TFC C/o 28 Olvmopia Street. Belfast BT12 6NJ



Across Northern Ireland's civil and public services a massive attack is under way.

New Labour boss Peter Hain is implementing a program of cuts, tax increases and privatisation designed to develop his dream of a low pay private sector economy where workers carry the bulk of the tax burden.

To achieve this ideal Hain, his army of consultants and his cronies in the Senior Civil Service know that they have to break the back off the public services. He has put in place a raft of measures designed to do just that. Of course, for public consumption, these attacks are not called by their real names, for privatisation read PPP, for job cuts read Comprehensive Spending Review and for tax increases and privatisation read water charges.

New Labour
WMD
(Words of mass
destruction)

Workplace 2010, RPA, ehr,
Bain Report, Agenda For
Change, Job Evaluation,
Commissioners, Relocation,
Pension Reform, Pay
Limits, PPP/PFI,
Outsourcing, Rates, Water
Charges, Fit for Purpose,
Comprehensive Spending
review, Managing
Attendance, etc, etc

So far the trade unions, including NIPSA, have only responded to each attack as a separate issue. Education workers fight their own battle against education cuts, Civil Service Messengers are left to fight Workplace 2010, Health Workers are fighting PPP, CSA workers fight job cuts etc. This approach misses the point!

A strategy to defeat this attack must link all the individual struggles into one campaign, uniting NIPSA's 43,000 members. Fight together and we can defeat the government's economic strategy. Such a campaign should include a one day strike by all civil and public service members to let the government see our real strength and to send a warning to the government to back off.

We are facing ONE STRUGGLE it's about time we started acting as ONE UNION

CIVIL SERVICE UNDER PRIVATE SECTOR ATTACK



The NIPSA General Council elections are being held against a backdrop of a wave of attacks on the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

The issue of low pay in the Civil Service is unresolved. The recent pay offer fails to solve the problem but it did reveal that management were shocked by the strong vote for all out strike last January. While they expected a resounding no vote they had to acknowledge the 47% vote to go all out was a very close run result. This year's pay offer with a 4% remit is twice the remit that PCS are now challenging, that is a reflection of the concern caused amongst management by the ballot.

But this year's offer fails to deliver a solution. 2% on the max points fails to keep up with inflation now edging towards 4%. Disgracefully many members on their max won't even get that as the NICS attempt to undermine equal pay cases by holding back the comparator grades like TG1 and 2s and Assistant Scientific Officers.

In addition to the pay crisis Civil servants have been under constant attack over the last number of years with their work been given to the private sector under EHR, proposals to transfer staff to the private sector under Workplace 2010, (with public buildings been sold at knock off prices to private companies!), and DVLNI jobs in Coleraine been taken away. In the Child Support Agency 1000s of jobs are poised to be lost. Added to this staff in Science

Service have been put outside the civil service into a NDPB and members in the Water Service are been put into a government company. Thousands of members are being affected by this endless list of attacks.

The next year will see yet another wave. The Reform of Public Administration will result in large sections of the civil service, such as Roads Service staff being moved to the councils. These staff face attacks on their terms and conditions.

The Comprehensive Spending Review will result in 6% year on year cuts for three years starting in April 08. This will result in savage cuts, after Fit for Purpose already reducing staffing levels to the bone.

All these attacks result in posts not being filled, work going to private companies and many NIPSA members being relocated elsewhere in the civil service. This means no recruitment, no promotion and no real chance of staff transfers closer to home, but most importantly jobs will go.

Low pay, cuts and privatisation are

Thanks to all our civil service contributors to the Bulletin.

If you would like to contribute an article please forward it to

tfc.nipsa@ntlworld.com



rampant in the NICS. We have to find a strategy to deal with them. It is clear that the union does not have one at present. The Civil Service cannot win this fight alone. Across all areas of the public services NIPSA members are facing the same problems. The response needed must be across all sectors.

Build now for a united campaign including a one day public sector strike against the decimation of the public services. United we can win – build that unity – vote Time For Change.

PCS FIGHTING BACK

Our sister union in the Home Civil Service, the PCS, is showing the way to fight back against government attacks with the 1 day strike against job losses and pay restraint on 31 January.

NIPSA members should mobilize support for the PCS strikers. A victory for these workers will be a victory for us – we are all fighting the same battle.

TFC NEWSLETTER

Keep in touch.
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Simply send an e-mail to

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DEFEND THE WATER SERVICE - FIGHT BACK AGAINST WATER CHARGES.

WE WON'T PAY WATER CHARGES!



The government can be forced to abandon its water charges if a mass campaign of non payment is organised in every community. Hain intends to use water charges as a means to privatise the water service. He needs separate water charges to make the service attractive to his private sector scrounger friends but if there is no profit to be made from the service then the scroungers will not be interested, leaving the government no choice but to abandon the charges. We can't rely on the local politicians to stop the charges, after all they intended bringing them in during the last Assembly!

What is needed is for unions like NIPSA to say enough is enough and begin to give real support to community based campaigns. NIPSA must link this campaign with the other campaigns to defend public services and launch a massive fight back

What Is Time For Change?

TFC is a broad left group of NIPSA activists campaigning to build a fighting democratic union. TFC has a proud record of fighting for members. In the recent past we have played a key role in, the fight against Workplace 2010, the battle on Civil Service pay, resistance to education cuts, defence of pensions and opposition to water charges. TFC grew from the experiences of members who found that the union did not support them in struggles against employers. From that experience we drew the conclusion that the union had to change and become representative of the views of members. It was time for a fighting democratic union. TFC is an open democratic organisation: our policies are decided by our members at general meetings. TFC then campaigns openly in NIPSA on issues affecting members of NIPSA.

If you would like more info or to join please contact

E mail tfc.nipsa@ntlworld.com

Phone 07811463368

Write TFC C/o 28 Olympia Street, Belfast BT12 6NJ

Open Meeting All Welcome

**BUILDING A
UNITED CAMPAIGN
AGAINST GOVERNMENT ATTACKS
ON PUBLIC SERVICES**

**Saturday 17 February 2007 11.30am
Belfast Centre for the Unemployed
Donegall Street Belfast**

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