



INFORMATION UPDATE

**OCTOBER
2013**



*Jason Godin
meeting with
Wayne Easter,
September 30*

Wayne Easter appointed Liberal Public Safety Critic

The federal Liberals have appointed a familiar face as the party's new Public Safety critic: PEI MP Wayne Easter, who served in 2002-03 as Solicitor-General, the cabinet position that was then responsible for CSC.

National Vice-President Jason Godin and union advisor Lyle Stewart met with Mr. Easter and his political attaché at his office on Parliament Hill September 30 to welcome him to his new role and to brief the MP on union concerns, in particular double-bunking and the Blood Samples Act.

Mr. Godin delivered a copy of the UCCO-SACC-CSN report, "A Critical Review of the Practice of Double-Bunking," and a number of other documents to support the union's position on this growing problem. A lively discussion of the effects of double-bunking – including increased violence and diminished opportunities for rehabilitation – ensued.

Mr. Easter was also briefed on the rapidly growing gang affiliations among the inmate population (from 1400 to 2100 over the past five years). In this context, the national v-p stressed the importance and difficulty of separating hostile inmate populations, a job made more difficult by the closure – the very same day – of three CSC institutions.

Finally, Mr. Godin presented a copy of the union's dvd, *Bloody Cells*, and explained the reasoning behind the union's push for a Blood Samples Act.

Mr. Easter is sensitive to the union's concerns, particularly over double-bunking. He promised to raise the issue with the recently appointed Minister of Public Safety, Steven Blaney.

UCCO-SACC-CSN has also requested a meeting with the new minister and hopes to meet with Mr. Blaney soon.