

Victory for PSA members: Department of Education withdrawal of *Circular 51 of 2025*

This *Informus* delivers a detailed account of the PSA's successful intervention that compelled the Department of Education to withdraw *Circular 51 of 2025*. The PSA ensured that the housing allowance remains protected and that members are not subjected to unnecessary or unlawful administrative demands.

Background and initial Union action

On 20 October 2025, the PSA issued an *Informus*, advising members that the withdrawal of *Circular 51 of 2025* had been tabled at the PSCBC. The *Circular* instructed all officials to reapply for the housing allowance. This raised immediate concerns about procedural fairness, legality, and compliance with binding collective agreements. The PSA firmly opposed the directive. The housing allowance is protected by PSCBC Resolution 7/2015, which established the Government Employees Housing Scheme. As a negotiated benefit, it cannot be altered unilaterally or made subject to new administrative conditions that fall outside the collective agreement.

Escalation to PSCBC Chamber

Honouring the October commitment, the PSA ensured the matter was placed on the agenda of the PSCBC Chamber meeting held on 4 November 2025. Labour parties delivered strong submissions, challenging the legality and procedural soundness of the *Circular*. The PSA argued that the directive contradicted prescripts and could not proceed unopposed.

Intensified engagement with employer

After the Chamber discussions, a virtual meeting was held between labour representatives and the employer. Labour reiterated that the reapplication requirement violated the collective agreement and placed employees at risk of losing an established benefit. Labour further warned that continued enforcement would necessitate escalation through disputes, litigation, or potential labour unrest.

Withdrawal of Circular 51 of 2025

The PSA is pleased to inform members that the employer has formally withdrawn *Circular 51 of 2025*. The withdrawal followed sustained pressure in Chamber and the virtual engagement. This is an important victory for employees and reinforces the authority of collective bargaining outcomes.

Implications for members

No reapplication is required for the housing allowance. Members will continue receiving the benefit under existing prescripts. No additional documentation, verification, or administrative process is necessary. The housing allowance remains secure and uninterrupted.

The PSA acknowledges the employer for making the correct decision by retracting a directive that undermined a negotiated benefit. The PSA welcomes constructive engagement that respects the law and honours the rights of employees. The PSA is steadfast in protecting collective agreements and defending the rights and benefits of public servants. Members are encouraged to report any action that puts negotiated entitlements at risk so the PSA can intervene without delay. Please contact:

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