

In this Issue - Children's World Congress report, election campaign, YEU people, Local news, & more

Federal vote presents opportunity

Union election activity intense

Union issues are being profiled like never before in the current federal election campaign.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada, the Yukon PSAC Area Council, the Canadian Labour Congress and the Yukon Federation of Labour have all taken action to put key issues front and center.

The vote to elect a new MP for the Yukon will be held on Monday June 28th.

Enclosed with this newsletter are two examples of things the labour movement is doing. One is a "scratch 'n' win" card developed by the CLC as part of the "Better Choices" campaign. The card highlights issues that affect working people and their families right across the country.

The second enclosure is a brochure about the website "Rantroom". Initially this site

focuses on the federal election, encouraging more young people to vote. In the future, other issues and events will be featured.

Members of YEU/PSAC were also sent a newsletter from PSAC Head office in Ottawa called "Your Guide the Federal Election." Using the phrase "Think, Ask, Vote," it encourages union members to take an active part in the campaign by asking questions of the candidates in their ridings before they vote.

In cooperation with the CLC, YEU and Local Y010, the Yukon Federation of Labour has sponsored print and radio ads that raise key issues profiled in the Better Choices campaign.

Unions have taken these unprecedented steps to raise issues partly as a result of changes to the Canada Elections Act which now restricts what unions may do in direct support of a candidate or political party.

It is clear that this federal election will be significant for the country, and for union members in particular. The party that is elected will directly affect PSAC members who are employed by the federal government, and indirectly those employed by the Government of Yukon and non-profit organizations. The future of whistleblower legislation, privatization, pensions and EI will all be set by the next federal government.

See "Your vote Matters", page 3



Marie Abbott (second from left) and other students from around the globe attended the *Children's World Congress on Child Labour* in Florence, Italy. See story on page 3.

Don't forget to GET OUT & VOTE on June 28th!

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Y017 losing one of its best to retirement



Eleanor Clubb

After 24 years cooking for all the folks at Macaulay Lodge, Eleanor Clubb is retiring. The staff at the lodge and the Y017 executive are both losing one of their strongest supporters.

Eleanor joined the kitchen staff at Macaulay in 1980 as an auxiliary cook. She became a full time employee the next year, and fed many residents (and staff members) ... expanding a few waistlines along the way.

A workplace issue led Eleanor to the YEU office and a meeting with President Dave Hobbis. For a number of years thereafter, she represented Macaulay's Union members as Shop Steward.

Eleanor was involved when staff at the lodge and the Thomson Centre

first began discussing the formation of a new local. Since that time she has served on the Y017 executive, and attended all YEU triennial conventions.

Always enthusiastic, dependable and willing to help, Eleanor has been a dedicated Union member for years ... with a ready sense of humor always at hand.

One of Eleanor's pet projects in the last few years involved encouraging all employees protected by the Collective Agreement to sign union membership cards.

Eleanor plans to use her time to catch up on some of her hobbies, including a room full of craft supplies awaiting attention.

Thank you, Eleanor, for all your efforts.



YEUyou asked

"Here are some answers to questions that might affect you or your co-workers."

Q. I work for the Yukon government. My supervisor has requested that I come to a meeting with her. I suspect that I may be in trouble for something, but I'm not sure. What are my options?

A. You have the right to ask your supervisor about the purpose of the meeting and the subject to be discussed. You also have the right to a clear explanation so you can decide what to do.

If this meeting is part of an investigation that you think might lead to formal discipline, or if the meeting is to determine the nature

of a form of formal discipline, you have the right to Union representation.

This right is spelled out in *Article 27.04 of the Collective Agreement:*

"When an employee is required to attend a meeting, the purpose of which is an investigation which may result in formal discipline concerning him/her or the purpose of which is to render formal discipline concerning him/her, the employee is entitled to have at his or her request a Representative of the Alliance attend the meeting."

The Union representative will provide support, takes notes about the discussion, and help you understand your rights and your options.

Article 27.04 also specified that, where possible, employees shall receive a minimum of one (1) day's notice before such a meeting.

Contact your local Shop Steward, a member of your local executive, or the Yukon Employee's Union office to arrange for a representative to accompany you.

Children's World Congress on Child Labour - My Experience

by Marie Abbott

The following is a summary of Marie Abbott's presentation to Local Y010 following her return from Florence. Copies of the full text are available from the Union office.

I've just returned from the first Children's World Congress on Child Labour. This event was held in Florence, Italy from May 10th to 13th, 2004. Attending the congress were 200 children and youth



composed of former child labourers and activists from around the world. The congress was organized

by Global March against Child Labour which is a non-governmental organization. Global March is the largest worldwide civil society initiative committed to end the exploitation of children.

Article 32 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that all children should be protected from economic exploitation. It also says that no child should have to perform work that is likely to interfere with their education, or to

be harmful to their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

One out of every six children in the world are child labourers. In total there are 250 million children being exploited.

Child labour normally means work that is done by children under the age of 15, which restricts or damages their physical, emotional, intellectual, social or spiritual growth as children. Child labourers are often abused by their employers. They are rarely paid fair wages, and their working hours are long.

At the Children's World Congress on Child Labour we participated in a variety of activities. There were workshops where we had the chance to discuss issues such as the causes of child labour and the importance of children's education.

We heard many personal stories from former child labourers. There was a Global March against Child Labour. All participants took part as well as other activists and numerous school children from Italy.

During the congress we had the opportunity to direct questions to a panel of world leaders including: the director of UNICEF, the Minister for Women's Affairs and Social Welfare in Mozambique, the Deputy Director General of the International Labour Organization, among many others.

We all had the chance to share our opinions and stories as well as

listen and learn many things from other youth. Friendships were made and we all went home knowing that we have taken yet another step in the fight to end all exploitation of children.

I would like to thank you all for your support regarding my attendance at the Children's World Congress on Child Labour. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Your vote matters

In the Yukon, there is only one federal riding. Therefore, it's important that union members get out and vote. Turnout in the Yukon in the last federal election was only 63%, and the difference between the first and second place candidates was only 70 votes. If all PSAC members cast their ballots, there is little doubt they would significantly influence the outcome.

To vote, your name must be on the voters list. You may register on election day at your polling station if all else fails, however it is good advice to not leave things to the last minute. You should by now have received a voter information card from Elections Canada. If you did not receive one, you have until Tuesday June 22 at 6 p.m. to contact Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868.

In the Yukon, voting hours are 7 am to 7 pm on Monday June 28. Advance polls are open from 12 noon to 8 p.m. Friday, June 18, Saturday June 19 and Monday June 21. Advance polls are available only in some communities.

Local Y010 will be holding its Annual General Meeting on October 27, 2004.

The AGM presents an opportunity for members to chart the course of the Local for the next year through the election of a new executive and debate of resolutions and motions. The Local by-laws require that resolutions be received by September 13 at the union hall, 45 days prior to the AGM.

This year the following executive positions are up for election:

President - 2 year term

Assistant Chief Shop Steward - 2 years

2 Directors, District 1 - 2 years

Director, District 4 - 2 years

Director, District 5 - 2 years

2nd Vice President (outside District 1) - 1 year

Director, District 4 - 1 year

Director for District 5 - 1 year

Nominations for any position can be submitted in writing prior to the AGM, or made from the floor at the meeting. Nominations must have a nominator and a seconder.

As part of this AGM we will be electing delegates to attend the PSAC North Convention in May 2005. This convention will be the first where the PSAC Vice-President for the North is elected in the region instead of at the National Convention outside. For detailed information please contact Laurie Butterworth.

Friday, July 30th

PSAC National Aboriginal, Inuit and Metis Network National Circle Call Out

Application deadline July 31. Contact the YEU office or visit the YEU website for info.

September 30th - October 3rd

2004 PSAC National Access

Conference: Our Rights - Moving On Up
Queen Elizabeth Motel, Montreal, Quebec.

2nd Thursday

Monthly YEU Executive Meeting

6:30 p.m. YEU Hall. Members welcome.

2nd Wednesday

Y010 Monthly Meeting

5:00 p.m. YEU Hall, Whitehorse.



Meetings:

As an attempt to start a dialogue with affiliated unions, the **Yukon Area Council** will try quarterly meetings with Local Presidents and alternates. The first dinner meeting will be Monday, September 20th. Information will be distributed in August. If your local would like to be affiliated, you need to pass a motion at your next AGM. No extra fees will be incurred by your local.

Did you know that the PSAC North convention will be held in Whitehorse, May 6-8, 2005? There will also be a Health and Safety Conference preceding the convention. Watch for more news about both of these events. If you would like to attend a YAC meeting - please leave your name and number with Nancy at 667-2331. The liaison is the Vice President PSAC North - Jean Francois Des Laurier.

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Mon-Thurs 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Fridays 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Members are reminded to notify the YEU office of any change of address or name changes. Call Linda Bidrman - Membership Services, email lbidrman@yeu.ca or fax the number above.