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# YEU NEWS

All About YEU – Your Union September 2006



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## Pre-bargaining sessions finalize position, pick team YTG Collective Bargaining

The Bargaining Input Committee composed of union representatives from Yukon government worksites across the territory met in Whitehorse for pre-bargaining sessions from September 12th through 14th. The collective agreement between

The Bargaining Input Committee reviewed the proposals submitted by members over the last few months. Once the final content of the proposal package was determined, the committee elected 6 members to the Negotiating Team .

YEU website at [www.yeu.ca](http://www.yeu.ca). Regular updates will be posted online and distributed by fax.

### Union Negotiating Team

- Laurie Butterworth, YEU President
- Gaby Lévesque, PSAC Negotiator
- PSAC Regional Representative
- Kathy Burns     Sharleen Patterson
- Loralee Kesler     Kyle Keenan
- Kevin Easton     Steve Geick

### Negotiations with City of Whitehorse continuing

Local Y023 members employed by the City of Whitehorse completed the second stage of negotiation on September 8. The first round took place in early June.

Negotiator Jim Brohman briefed the membership on the status of discussion prior to the start of the second round. Union and management negotiators returned to the table on September 18.



**Bargaining Input Committee members met in Whitehorse to finalize the Union's position in preparation for collective bargaining with the Government of Yukon.**

PSAC and the Government of Yukon expires at the end of December.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada will be represented by seasoned negotiator Gaby Lévesque. Talks with the employer begin later this year.

The other three members of the Negotiating Team are the Component President Laurie Butterworth, a PSAC regional representative and negotiator Lévesque.

YEU members can follow the progress of negotiations on the

# YEU in the community

## Labour Day Barbecue

Again this year, Union members from Local Y010 served up a free lunch at the *Feed the People*

*Barbecue* on Labour Day. Rotary Peace Park filled with working people and unemployed Yukoners who gathered to celebrate the gains

achieved by organized labour over the years.

Members served burgers, hotdogs, corn-on-the-cob, juice and coffee. Our thanks to Local Y010 for again making Labour Day a memorable community event.



## Human Rights Day Open House

YEU is hosting this year's Human Rights Day Open House between 2:00 and 7 p.m. on December 8 at the YEU Hall.

We welcome all our members and their friends to drop in to celebrate the human rights gains achieved, and to start the holiday season with hors d'oeuvres and a glass of cheer.

# YEU election 2006

## YFL announces election issue campaign

Yukon Federation of Labour released seven voter information sheets on Tuesday, September 19 at a press conference in Whitehorse. YFL President Alex Furlong explained that the campaign was developed to increase awareness of the issues facing working people in the territory.

Each sheet details one of the issues of concern to organized labour. A brochure is also being distributed to draw attention to the three issues considered the highest priority for Yukon working families:

Health Care, Child Care, and Privatization.

A copy of the brochure is included with this newsletter.

Yukon Employees' Union President Laurie Butterworth says that YEU supported the federation's initiative. "The election issues that are



of concern to our members, are the same issues facing all working people, regardless of union affiliation".

All members, regardless of political affiliation, are encouraged to read the material, and ask candidates to state their own, and their party's position.

Copies of the issue sheets are available on the Yukon Federation of Labour website:

[www.yukonfed.com](http://www.yukonfed.com).



# YEU from the President

**Yukoners will soon go to the polls to elect**

**a new government. There are many issues union members need to keep in mind when making their selection.**

The Yukon Federation of Labour launched a Labour Issues Campaign this month to draw attention to concerns of union members. These concerns were identified through a questionnaire, and through a focus group held to help refine each issue.

The Yukon Employees' Union fully supports YFL in this initiative. We have enclosed a copy of the Labour Issues Campaign brochure with this newsletter.

This publication is supported by individual issues sheets covering Health care, child care, poverty, privatization, job-site safety, political ethics and the need for a new correctional facility.

## **Klondike Local Y026 AGM**

YEU's newest local, serving our members in Dawson City and surrounding area, will hold its first **Annual General Meeting** on Thursday, October 12, 7:30 p.m. in the Y.O.O.P. Hall (2nd & King St., Dawson City).

The agenda includes the election of officers, adoption of bylaws and the approval of the budget.

I urge all members to consider this information, and ask questions when candidates come calling. Individual issues sheets are available on both the YEU website at [www.yeu.ca](http://www.yeu.ca), and on the YFL site at [www.yukonfed.com](http://www.yukonfed.com).

## **Collective Bargaining**

The Bargaining Input Committee representing Yukon government employees met for three days earlier this month. Proposals were finalized and our bargaining package is in preparation. YEU members will be notified of the final package content after we have met with YTG. Updates will be posted regularly on the YEU website.

Our negotiating team was also chosen at this meeting. I want to thank all 31 delegates who attended, as well as our negotiator, Gaby Lévesque, for all their hard work.

Our members employed by the City of Whitehorse are currently at the negotiating table. Negotiator Jim Brohman will advise our members as soon as information can be posted.

## **Threats to Dental Program**

YEU has been trying to get the government to hear our concerns about the shortages of dental therapists, and the threat these shortages pose to the dental health of our children.

Once again, the government seems unwilling to listen to its own professionals in the field, or to take an important issue seriously.

## **Resigning or Retiring? The wrong word can cost you!**

You'll want to be really, *really* clear on this point if you work for the Yukon government. YTG has started denying retirement benefits based on how employees word their letters of termination.

Under the PSAC collective agreement with YTG, if you are eligible for "an immediate annuity or an immediate annual allowance", you are entitled to a higher rate of severance pay (Article 19.06). You can choose between converting a third of your remaining sick leave to cash, or to pre-retirement leave (Article 25.04 (1)).

Those who resign receive a lower severance payout (Article 19.05), and are only able to take the cash option for sick leave conversion.

According to the Superannuation Pension Plan as soon as you reach 50 years of age, you are entitled to "an immediate annual allowance". Once you reach 60, or you meet a service/age threshold, you are eligible for "an immediate annuity".

If you are over 50 and have been denied rights under Articles 19.06 or 25.04, please call the union office. If you plan to leave government employment and you are 50 years old or more, ensure your letter says "I am retiring", not "I am resigning".

# YEU member of the month



## Ghyslain Rozon aka Mayo

YEU's newest director is Ghyslain Rozon. We know him as "Mayo". He was just elected as **Equal Opportunities Director**, a new position created by the delegates to the 2005 Triennial Convention.

Mayo has been a union member for more than 25 years, including 8

years as a YEU member. He was a Canadian Steelworker for eleven years while working in Cassiar, and served as a Shop Steward. He currently works as a custodian with the Property Management Branch of the Yukon government.

Mayo was born in Montreal. He left Quebec in 1978, working in Alberta and British Columbia before settling in the Yukon.

Catherine, his wife of 20 years, has been his most ardent supporter, backing his decision to seek a larger role in the union. He is the father of two children, son Daniel and daughter Jac.

Mayo's enthusiasm for furthering the cause of organized labour is matched by his fondness for riding

Yukon roads in the open air. Whenever time allows, he can be found out cruising on his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Being the first member of the YEU executive to hold the position of Equal Opportunities Director presents unique challenges. But Mayo is ready for the opportunity.

"I'm proud to have the opportunity to work for PSAC and the Yukon Employees' Union", he says. "In particular, I thank John Irvine for getting me involved. I will do my best to do justice to the faith our members have shown in me." Mayo encourages all members with equal opportunity issues to contact him.

Congratulations, Mayo, on your election. Everyone at YEU is looking forward to working with you.

## YEU calendar

### Bursary Application Deadline

September 30, 2006

### Shop Steward Round Table

Thurs., Oct. 5, 9:00 a.m., YEU Hall

### Klondike Local Y026 AGM

Thurs., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. YOOP Hall, Dawson City.

### Collective Bargaining

Dates and times TBA

### YEU Monthly Executive Meeting

2nd Thurs., 6:30 p.m., YEU Hall

### Local Y010 Monthly Meeting

2nd Wed., 5:00 p.m., YEU Hall

### Local Y017 Monthly Meeting

4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m., YEU Hall

### Local Y025 Monthly Meeting

2nd Tues., 4:30 p.m., YEU Hall

## Contacts:

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### Office Hours:

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

**Fridays** 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Please notify YEU about address and name changes. Call or fax Linda Bidrman - or email [lbidrman@yeu.ca](mailto:lbidrman@yeu.ca).**