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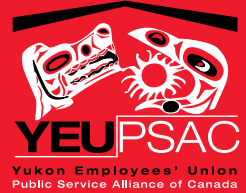


2285-2nd Ave.
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1C9



YEU NEWS

All About YEU – Your Union February 2007



Posted on www.yeu.ca February 24, 2007

“Yes, there are challenges, but we remain optimistic” – YEU President Butterworth Government negotiations begin in earnest

Collective bargaining on behalf of Yukon government employees began on February 12 in Whitehorse. Two days of face-to-face negotiations were held. The Union pre-bargaining teams concluded their meetings with the employer’s representatives in January.

Your bargaining team, led by PSAC Negotiator Gaby Lévesque, presented the Union’s proposals to the employer at the start of the session. These included a combination of issues brought forward

from pre-bargaining, and proposals selected by the Bargaining Input Committee last September.

The employer indicated that they anticipate a productive and co-operative round of negotiations, presenting a challenging package of demands. The Union team is

well prepared, and are committed to defending member rights and negotiating a fair agreement.

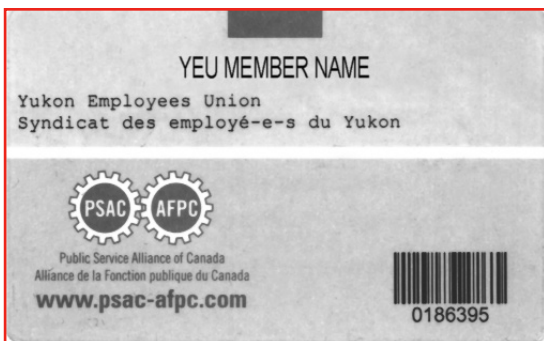
The next round of negotiations begins March 26. The teams are scheduled to be at the table for 4 days, and hope to conclude most non-monetary issues at that time.

Agreement extends Letters of Understanding YTG Nurses’ LOUs extended

During pre-bargaining sessions held prior to the start of negotiations between the Yukon government and Union representatives, agreement was reached to extend certain Letters of Understanding (LOUs) affecting nurses. The agreement covers Letters of Understanding “O”, “O1” and “Q”, which will remain in effect until the current Collective Agreement is no longer in force.

2006. Consequently, the terms of these letters would have expired had this agreement not been reached.

- Letter of Understanding “O” covers the *Registered Nurses’ Market Adjustment Allowance*.
- LOU “O1” covers the *RN Retention Allowance and the Community Nurse Practitioner Recruitment and Retention Allowance*.
- LOU “Q” covers *Community Nurse Practitioner ‘Seasonal Auxiliary’ Positions*.



Yukon Employees’ Union members will soon be receiving new PSAC membership cards such as the one displayed above. The bar code will ease member identification for voting purposes.

These LOUs contained an expiry date of December 31,

New EO Director elected

The position of Equal Opportunities Director on the YEU Executive has been filled. **Sharleen Patterson** assumed the duties of Director on January 30, 2007.

Sharleen has been active in Local Y017 for six years, serving five years as Shop Steward. She was elected to her Local executive in 2005 as a Director and then as Chief Shop Steward. Recently she has been

serving as Local Vice-President.

Prior to arriving in the Yukon, she served as Shop Steward with the

Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Sharleen's first introduction to unions came at a very young age because most of her family was



**New Equal Opportunities Director
Sharleen Patterson**

employed by General Motors in Oshawa, Ontario. She worked in the truck plant during summers while receiving her post-secondary education.

The Canadian Auto Workers Union (CAW) is a particularly active union. During this time Sharleen

says, "I learned much about the importance of unions in the workplace, and about fighting for

my rights as a union member."

Here in the Yukon, she participated as a member of the YEU Pride Committee, the Regional Women's Committee, the Yukon Area Council and the PSAC North Executive Committee. She was also elected as a delegate to the PSAC National Convention, which she attended in May, 2006. Currently she is a member of bargaining team negotiating with the Yukon government.

Sharleen is clear about her objectives in this new position. "My goal as Equal Opportunities Director on the YEU Executive is to network with other EO committees within Canada and with the national office of PSAC. I want to provide information to YEU members and to develop a strong Equal Opportunities Committee within the Yukon."

New YEU Grievance and Member Management system Software upgrade will improve service

A new Grievance and Member Management system will be installed in the YEU office in the next few weeks. The software was developed by LabourWare, a Canadian company dedicated to providing applications and tools to serve the labour union market.

The Ontario based firm builds Membership Management and Grievance Management applications, as well as content managed web sites. They also carry out surveys and polls, and provide education management systems for unions.

System Architect Gabriel Louli was in Whitehorse earlier this



month to orient YEU staff members and confirm the functional requirements of the system.

Union President Laurie Butterworth explained that YEU selected LabourWare for their technical expertise, knowledge of labour union structures and requirements, and for the system's simplicity and ease-of-use.

"Our membership continues to grow, and the practical demands on our staff are growing as well. The new system will automate some previously manual processes and free-up staff time to directly serve members." The system should be up and running by late March.

YEU from the President



Earlier this month I travelled to Ottawa to attend the Public Service

Alliance of Canada's National Board of Directors meeting.

During my absence, YEU Executive member Sue Christianson served as Acting President. She also took the opportunity to review our education and training activities and work with our staff to improve these services. Thank you, Sue, for your efforts.

Vice President Lorelee Kesler also filled in admirably for two weeks while I was out of the country. With so many issues and processes on the table, it's difficult to be away from the office even for short periods. Fortunately, YEU's ongoing educational activities and training programs have provided our Executive members with the knowledge and ability to step in during these periods.

New Membership Cards

PSAC will be issuing new membership cards to all its members in the coming weeks. The new cards feature a new look, and for the first time include bar code identification. These codes will allow a much easier member-identification process, which will in turn speed voting processes and entrance into member-only meetings.

If any members have changed their address recently, this would be an ideal time to contact the YEU office to make certain your contact information is up-to-date.

As indicated in the story on page two, we are installing a new membership tracking system. We also need to have current member information when the system goes online in March.

Collective Bargaining

We are now well into collective bargaining with representatives of the Yukon government. Positions have been exchanged, and we will be reviewing the employer's demands over the next few weeks in preparation for the four-day session beginning on March 26.

Collective agreements for two other YEU Locals expire this summer – Yukon College and the Whitehorse General Hospital.

The **Yukon College** agreement expires on June 30. College employees have begun the process by initiating a call for input from members. Preparatory meetings will begin in the next month or so.

I'm hopeful that the process can smoothly run its course, and that a new agreement can be negotiated successfully.

The collective agreement for **Whitehorse General Hospital** employees expires on August 31. The call for input from this group of members will be handled by the PSAC regional office.

Currently this Local is going through some trying times. Given the current environment, I anticipate intense negotiations. Two meetings with the hospital CEO and one meeting with the Chair of the Hospital Corporation's Board of Directors have yet to address our member's workplace concerns.

The Collective Agreement for employees of the **City of Whitehorse** has not yet received third reading from City Council. We anticipate approval shortly.

Human Resources Director Tony Lomas has accepted another position and will be leaving employment with the municipality. I wish Tony well in his new endeavour.

YEU Building Renovations

Work on renovations on your Union Hall should begin in the late spring. Hopefully our members will not be inconvenienced. The new layout will significantly improve the usefulness of the facility and benefit all members in terms of meeting space, training areas and accessibility.

UNW Lockout

I'm please that a successful resolution was achieved for 22 members of the Union of Northern Workers who had been locked out for 5 weeks. YEU provided a donation in support of their action.

These members, most of them Aboriginal, work at Nats'eje K'eh, a drug and alcohol treatment centre in Hay River. They had not had a salary increase in four years.

YEU member of the month

Jack Bourassa - Local Y010 Shop Steward

Jack Bourassa arrived in the Yukon in 1989 from Kitchner, Ontario. His credentials as a Union activist date back more than 30 years to his employment in the textile industry.

He became a member of the Northern Carpenters & Allied Workers/United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America in 1990 while working as a carpenter in the construction trades in Whitehorse.

Due to an injury, Jack was forced to make a fundamental career change. He retrained as a computer technician, and took a summer stu-

dent position with the Yukon government's Department of Education in 1999.



Jack Bourassa serves as Shop Steward with Local Y010 at the Yukon Department of Education.

He secured employment in a term position in 2000, and became the department's permanent full-time computer maintenance/support technician in 2003. Today, Jack is

responsible for maintaining more than 2,500 Apple computer systems in 30 schools and the Department of Education administration building.

Recently he completed a two-week stint in the YEU office under the Union Orientation program. This initiative welcomes Shop Stewards into the YEU office to get hands-on experience in union representation.

"I gained a new perspective and greater appreciation for the hard work that goes on behind the scenes", Jack says. "I'd certainly like to do it again, and recommend that other Shop Stewards take advantage of the opportunity."

YEU calendar

Shop Steward Round Tables

Monthly, 9:00 a.m., YEU Hall. Call office for details.

Collective Bargaining

YTG bargaining continues March 26.

PSAC National Pride Conference

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver. 5 YEU members will be attending.

Local Y025 AGM

April, 2007. Date, time & location 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

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1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Please notify YEU about address and name changes. Call or fax Linda Bidrman - or email lbidrman@yeu.ca.