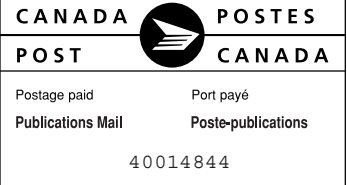


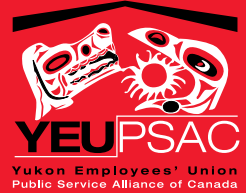


Yukon Employees' Union  
Public Service Alliance of Canada  
2285-2nd Ave.  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1C9



# YEU NEWS

All About YEU – Your Union March 2007



## Government failing to advise workers of choices Injured workers not told of claim options

Yukon government employees who have been injured at work can choose how their claim is handled. The problem is, the employer doesn't always explain that.

As a result, some injured workers receive an unpleasant surprise part-way through their recovery.

The issue arises after three months (90 calendar days) of injury-on-duty leave. If you have been injured at work, you have two options at that point.

- You may start using sick-leave and receive your full working wage. Yukon Workers' Compensation will pay your loss-of-wage benefits directly to the employer. Your salary and other benefits continue as if you were at work.

This option is advantageous to the employer because your sick-leave credits are being used up at the 100% daily benefit rate, even

though the employer is paying only 25% of your wage.

Many injured workers prefer this option. It is relatively uncomplicated because your income, pension and benefits are not effected.

- Instead, you may choose leave-without-pay while recovering. You then receive loss-of-earnings benefits in the amount of 75% of your gross wages directly from WCB. You must arrange to pay into your pension plan and contribute to your medical plan to maintain your coverage.

This option may or may not mean a lower monthly wage during your recovery—WCB benefits are not taxable income. But you keep your sick-leave credits for future use when you return to work.

Many workers are not told they have two options. They are automatically placed on sick-leave.

Once their sick-leave credits have been exhausted, they are switched to the leave-without-pay option.

As an employee of the Yukon government, the choice of option depends entirely on your circumstances and desire. There is no 'best' option. But the choice is up to you.

### 2007 Day of Mourning



This year the Yukon's ceremony to honour workers killed or injured in the workplace will be held Saturday, March 28—Canada's Day of Mourning. The ½ hour event will take place in the foyer of the Yukon Government Administration Building at 12:30 p.m.

Last year in the Yukon, a record 1,984 workplace injuries were reported. Five Yukon workers lost their lives on the job site.

*continued on page 3*

## Tentative YTG Settlement—see Page 2

# YEU collective bargaining

## Tentative YTG settlement

The Yukon Employees' Union and the Public Service Alliance of Canada, negotiating on behalf of our members, reached a tentative agreement with the Yukon government on March 28, 2007.

Details of the agreement will be presented at information sessions to be held across the Yukon. Highlights include:

- a 3 year term;
- a 9% wage increase over the term of the agreement, payable at a rate of 1.8% January 1 and 1.2% June 1 of each year (*the same terms agreed to by Yukon teachers*);
- a significant number of other financial gains that extend across

the workforce, thereby benefiting all Yukon government employees;

- a substantial number of non-monetary operational changes that will improve the day-to-day worklife of our members.

The agreement will be submitted to the membership for ratification as soon as the information sessions are complete. Detailed packages with the full terms of the tentative agreement will be delivered by mail. All YEU members in good standing who are employed by the Yukon government will be eligible to vote.

The dates and times of the information sessions were being arranged as this newsletter went to press. YEU members can get fur-

## Globalization Workshop

The Whitehorse office of the Public Service Alliance of Canada will hold a Globalization Workshop in April.

The course will be held in the YEU boardroom the weekend of April 21 and 22, 2007, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Course content includes:

- The Global Village
- A Day in the Life of a Public Sector Worker
- Defining Globalization
- The Role of Transnationals
- The World Trade Organization
- The Debt Trap
- What is Development?
- Union Busting
- Resistance is Fertile

To register, please contact Diane or Nancy at the PSAC office: 667-2331. Participation from members outside Whitehorse will depend on available funding.

ther information from the YEU website at [www.yeu.ca](http://www.yeu.ca). You may also contact the YEU office at 667-2331 (collect outside Whitehorse).

## YEU labour history

### 1994 PSAC Triennial Convention

The Public Service Alliance of Canada held their Triennial Convention in 1994 in Montreal. The Yukon Employees' Union sent a team of eight representatives (*pictured on the right*).

This convention was YEU's second after becoming a component of the PSAC in 1990. Previously, members served by YEU were organized as the Yukon Government Employees' Union. YGEU represented Yukon territorial gov-

ernment workers almost exclusively.

The photo at the right shows our team at the 1993 Triennial Convention. We've set aside a YEU T-shirt and ball cap for the member who identifies the most team members.

Just drop an email to Gwen at



[gwain@yeu.ca](mailto:gwain@yeu.ca) with your answers. We'll identify all team members in our next newsletter.

# YEUE from the President



**I am very pleased to report that we have succeeded in securing a tentative agreement**

**with the Yukon government on a new Collective Agreement for our members.**

I'm quite satisfied that the terms of the agreement are the best we could have achieved. We accomplished most of the goals we had defined at the outset, while granting minimal concessions.

Highlights of the agreement appear on page 2. Detailed member packages will be distributed after community visits by our ratification team. Many thanks to all the members who helped us throughout the collective bargaining process.

## **More Collective Bargaining**

The **City of Whitehorse** council signed our member's new Collective Agreement (Y023) on Wednesday, March 28, at a ceremony at the city office. I'm pleased to see this agreement finally formalized.

**Whitehorse General Hospital** employees are seeking input from their members in preparation for their own contract negotiations. The workplace atmosphere at the hospital is not at all positive, due primarily to a confrontational attitude by the employer.

I met recently with the hospital

CEO and the Chair of the Board to discuss the pension plan and the recurring problems that are so negatively affecting members of Local Y025. It is my nature to be optimistic, but the adversarial approach favoured by the hospital management does not bode well for the upcoming negotiations.

## **Canada Winter Games**

This month I was happy to join with so many other Yukoners working in support of the Whitehorse Canada Winter Games.

The event was a great showcase for the Yukon and its people. It was gratifying to see so many of our member giving so generously of their time and energy in support of the community.

## **Day of Mourning**

On April 28, we again commemorate workers who were killed or injured on the job during the Day of Mourning.

The Yukon Employees' Union, the Yukon Federation of Labour (YFL) and the Workers' Compensation Board continue to work to raise awareness and offer solutions. YFL has been offering weekly courses that debunk the myths around workers' compensation, offer a history and current perspective, and provide useful tools to raise awareness among union members and the general public.

I urge our members to take advantage of the opportunity to attend (ask your employer about leave options).

## **Day of Mourning**

*continued from page 1*

The Day of Mourning is one small way for our community to acknowledge those killed or injured at work, and to share our grief with their families, friends and co-workers.

This year B.Y.T.E. (*Bringing Youth Towards Equality*) is organizing a march of young people to the site of the event. Their participation is in recognition of the disturbing number of young people (15-24) who die on the job in Canada each year.

Commemorative pins are now available from retail outlets across the Yukon. All funds raised through donations for the pins will be directed towards the cost of construction of a permanent Yukon Workers' Memorial. The memorial prototype will be on display at the ceremony.

## **Replacement Worker Ban**

By now most union members in Canada realize that Bill C-257, otherwise known as the Anti-Scab legislation, was defeated in the House of Commons.

Despite labour's best efforts, the majority of MPs chose not to support working people, and refused to implement changes to the Canada Labour Code that would have banned replacement workers in the event of a strike.

Our thanks to Yukon MP Larry Bagnell who voted with the minority in favour of the legislation.

## WRWC donations help Kaushee's Place, Women's Centre

The Whitehorse Regional Women's Committee (WRWC) delivered boxes of towels, clothing



Whitehorse Regional Women's Committee members deliver towels and essentials to Kaushee's Place.

and other essentials to the Yukon Women's Transition Home (Kaushee's Place) on March 8 in commemoration of International Women's Day.

The items are for the women and children using the residence. They offer additional comfort during this stressful time in their lives.

WRWC provided similar donations to the women's transition homes in Dawson City and Watson Lake, and to the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre in Whitehorse.

The transition home's occupancy rate has been increasing every year. As well, their outreach services have risen dramatically.

Project funding recently ended for their outreach staff, even as the number of women reaching out to access this service grows. Second

stage apartments are at capacity, and have been consistently occupied. The problem is increasing as vacancy rates in Whitehorse continue to drop and safe, affordable housing becomes scarce.

In addition to donations through organizations, there are other ways for YEU members to contribute. Many residents are fleeing unsafe situations and starting out again with little. Donations of household items such as cups, glasses, linens, coffeemakers, dishware and utensils are always appreciated.



**YEU News** is published by the Yukon Employees' Union.

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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).**

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**Denise L. Norman**, Executive Director - contact for YEU and Local Executive Members; [dnorman@yeu.ca](mailto:dnorman@yeu.ca)

## YEU calendar

Contact YEU for more information

### N.A.I.M.

Registration deadline: April 10.

### WGH Local Y025 Bargaining Input

Deadline April 27.

### Globalization Workshop

April 21 & 22, 9:00 to 4:30 p.m. YEU Hall.

### Local Y025 AGM

April, 2007.

### Shop Steward Round Tables

Monthly, Every first Thursday. 9:00 a.m. until noon, YEU Hall.

### 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