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



YEU NEWS

All About YEU – Your Union April 2007



Yukon government workers prepare to vote Ratification meeting dates set

Workers employed by the Government of Yukon will hear details of the tentative agreement reached between our negotiating team and the Yukon government beginning on April 27.

Meetings will be held in every community or job site where our members are employed by the Yukon government. (*See page 2 for meeting schedule*).

PSAC has prepared ratification packages for voting members. Ratification teams will travel the Yukon to explain details of tentative deal and hear from members.

The ratification packages will be handed to members at each meeting location. A digital version will also be available on the YEU website beginning on Friday, April 27.

Locked ballot boxes will be on hand at each meeting location. Members will have the opportunity to vote on the package after each meeting. The ballot boxes will remain locked until all meetings

have been completed. Votes will be counted at the YEU office on Saturday, May 5. A press release announcing whether or not the tentative agreement was approved will be distributed on May 7.

Call back mileage to be fully reimbursed

After a prolonged effort by Union representatives, the Staff Relations Branch of the Public Service Commission revised its interpretation of *Article 18.01(2) Call Back Pay* for Yukon government workers. This article provides for reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred when employees are called back to work.

In a memorandum released on March 20, 2007, Staff Relations acknowledged that the wording of the Article did not support their previous interpretation—that mileage need only be reimbursed for travel within city limits. Mileage claims will now be paid from the employee's residence.

For additional information and meeting updates or changes, please visit the YEU website at www.yeu.ca. Members may also call the Union office at 667-2331 (*collect from outside Whitehorse*).

This new interpretation was a result of a grievance filed on behalf of members employed at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre—however, it applies to all Yukon government workers.

Correction Day of Mourning— April 28

The Yukon will observe Canada's National Day of Mourning on Saturday, April 28, at 12:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Yukon Government administration building.

Please join us to remember and honour our co-workers injured or killed on the job.

Ratification meeting schedule: YTG employees

Friday, April 27th

- 9:00 a.m. - Union Hall (*for shift workers*)
- 1:00-4:00 p.m. - Union Hall (*drop-in*)
- 7:00 p.m. - Mt. McIntyre Recreation Centre

Monday, April 30th

- 9:00 a.m. - Union Hall (*for shift workers*)
- 1:00-4:00 p.m. - Union Hall (*drop-in*)
- 7:00 p.m. - Westmark Whitehorse

Tuesday, May 1st

- 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Pelly Crossing, Elijah Van Bibber School Library
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Fraser Maintenance Camp
- 7:00 p.m. - Dawson City, YOOP Hall
- 7:00 p.m. - Carmacks, Tantalus School Library
- 7:00 p.m. - Teslin Recreation Centre
- 7:00 p.m. - Carcross School

Wednesday, May 2nd

- 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Ogilvie Grader Station
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Blanchard Maintenance Camp
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Swift River Grader Station
- 7:00 p.m. - Eagle Plains Hotel
- 7:00 p.m. - Haines Junction, St. Elias Convention Centre
- 7:00 p.m. - Watson Lake, Recreation Centre

Thursday, May 3rd

- 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Destruction Bay, Kluane Lake School
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Tutchitua Grader Station
- 5:00 p.m. - Ross River Community Centre
- 7:00 p.m. - Mayo Community Hall
- 7:00 p.m. - Beaver Creek Community Centre
- 7:00 p.m. - Old Crow, Alice Frost Campus
- 7:30 p.m. - Faro Recreation Centre, Sportsmens Lounge

YEU labour history

Further to our article last month, this delegation of Union mem-

bers attended the 1994 Montreal PSAC Triennial Convention.

The YEU representatives were – Front row, left to right:



Boris Dobrowolsky, Karen Daigle and Marianne McKinnon.

Back row: Jim Brohman, Pat Russell, Daryl Bean, Norm Easton and John Irving.

**Health & Social Services
Local Y017**

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 2007
7:30 p.m.

YEU Hall
2285-2nd Avenue
(*across from the
Westmark Klondike*)

Annual Reports
Financial Report
Election of Officers

YEU from the President



The ratification process for the tentative collective agreement between the Yukon government and its workers is well under way.

Ratification packages have been prepared and teams will begin holding meetings on April 27.

I cannot overstate the importance of this process to our members. It is your chance to choose whether or not to approve the tentative deal, a deal that will govern union-management relations for the next three years.

These meetings are also an opportunity for Union members, particularly in rural communities, to bring forward other issues of concern.

We had intended to mail packages to all members prior to the meetings, but delays resulting from printing and shipping made the mail-outs impractical in the time available. A copy of the ratification package will be posted on the YEU website on April 27 for those members who wish to preview the terms of the tentative deal in advance of the meetings.

Yukon College bargaining
Members of Yukon College Local Y011 have selected their bargaining team members. My congratulations to Helen Winton, Maureen Stephens, Doug Graham and Ranj

Pillai on your selection to the committee. I look forward to working with you.

The Union and management have agreed to undertake a pre-bargaining process, hopefully sometime in May. We anticipate full collective bargaining to begin in late August or early September.

Day of Mourning

I look forward to seeing our members on April 28 at the annual Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. We will meet in the foyer of the Yukon government administration building for the ceremony at 12:30 p.m.

Beginning on April 20, commemorative pins will be on sale at local establishments to help raise money for the creation of a permanent workers' memorial. I urge all members to offer a small donation to the cause.

YEU across Canada

In late March, Canadian Labour Congress President Ken Georgetti and other labour leaders attended a mini-summit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Ministers of Finance, Labour and Industry.

It was the first substantive meeting between organized labour and the Progressive Conservative government since Mr. Harper took office in February, 2006. The meeting, requested by CLC, occurred to discuss massive job losses in the manufacturing sector.

Georgetti explained that, "The

country is still losing tens of thousands of good jobs that pay family-supported wages. It's happening because Canada's manufacturing sector is in crisis. Everyone feels it, but the media and Parliament, they don't see the crisis."

Georgetti points out that since 2002, Canada has lost 247,300 manufacturing jobs, about one in ten positions. This disappearance is closely linked to Canada's soaring deficit in the trade of manufactured goods, and the increased penetration of the market for man-

ufactured goods by exports from low-wage Asian countries.

Increased employment in other sectors hides the number of manufacturing jobs lost. Most of the jobs being created are part-time and/or self-employed positions as opposed to full-time, paid positions—and they pay lower wages, on average.

The CLC offered several 'do-able' measures to the PM to help address the problem. For more information about these measures, visit www.canadalabour.ca.

YEU in the community

Spikey campaign puts seniors on good footing

After watching a Yukon senior slip and fall on a icy patch of sidewalk a few years ago, Local Y010 Chief Shop Steward Pat Westberg stepped in.

Pat brought his concern to the attention of the late John Irving, Local president at the time. John suggested that they adapt a past YEU initiative, and purchase spikeys to address the problem.

A “spikey” is a rubber harness that can be applied to an outdoor winter boot. Each has six spikes to provide additional traction when stepping on ice, thereby preventing slipping.

Beginning in 2001, as the need required, Local Y010 purchased a supply of spikeys for distribution to seniors through the Golden Age Society.

This year, Northern Hospital Supplies helped sponsor the initiative by providing a discount on the purchase price of the harnesses. The discount enabled the Local to purchase vouchers for 90 pairs.

The vouchers are provided to Golden Age Society, which in turn distributes them to seniors free-of-charge. The seniors

can then take their numbered voucher down to Northern Hospital Supplies, which sizes them for their boots.



Northern Hospital Supplies delivers spikey vouchers to members of the Golden Age Society. Y010 Shop Steward Pat Westberg (far left) co-ordinated the initiative.

Local Y010 is considering making this campaign an annual event.



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.

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YEU calendar

Contact YEU for more information

WGH Local Y025 Bargaining Input
Deadline April 27.

Local Y025 AGM
April, 2007.

Alliance Facilitator Training Program
June 7-10, 2007. Yellowknife, NT

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