

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:



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



# YEU NEWS

All About YEU – Your Union October 2008



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## Your Union is a democracy

More than ninety delegates to the 2008 YEU Triennial Convention meet Friday, October 24 to Sunday, October 26 at the Westmark Whitehorse.

They will elect a new Executive and make decisions that will direct and guide the activities of your Union over the next three years.

Each Local elects their own delegates – with a minimum delegate entitlement of two. Larger Locals may elect one delegate for every fifty signed members.

A diverse membership directs the activities of YEU (see sidebar). Each Local and the YEU Executive may submit resolutions to direct the activities of the newly elected leadership. To date, twenty-one resolutions have been submitted. More may be brought forward from the convention floor.

The convention opens at 1:30 p.m. Friday with the call to order and

an opening address by current President Laurie Butterworth.

The majority of convention time is devoted to task-making decisions and the election of new representatives. Time is also set aside so delegates can learn more about governance, and about some of the broader issues our Union tackles.

Delegates have the opportunity to learn about international social justice issues, and the current state of human rights as it relates to women and girls in the Yukon. Pre-convention training teaches how to be an effective delegate, and how a delegate can make their voice heard.

A number of National PSAC leaders will be in attendance including President John Gordon and 1st Vice President Patty Ducharme. Regional Executive Vice President for the North, Jean-François Des Lauriers, Todd Parsons, President of the Union of Northern Workers

### A Union for Yukon

YEU represents workers in all of the following organizations:

**Government of Yukon** (5 Locals including two regional Locals)

**Yukon College**

**Child Development Centre**

**Yukon Women's Transition Home**

**Nakwaye Ku Daycare**

**Klondike Visitors Association**

**Yukon Arts Centre**

**City of Whitehorse** (2 Locals)

**Town of Watson Lake**

**Yukon Energy Corporation**

**Whitehorse General Hospital**

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**

– our counterpart in the NWT, and Alex Furlong, President of the Yukon Federation of Labour will also attend.

Your Union will be deciding its future. As a Union member, you are entitled and encouraged to attend any or all the convention proceedings as observers.

**YEU Triennial Convention — October 24-26, 2008.**

## YEU 2008 Educational Bursaries awarded

Each year the Yukon Employees' Union awards \$8000 in educational bursaries to YEU members or family members.

\$7000 is awarded in the form of seven \$1000 bursaries for applicants enrolled full-time in a post-secondary university or college program.

The final \$1000 is awarded to individual(s) pursuing a career in the

trades and may be awarded as one bursary for a full-time student, or as two \$500 bursaries for those attending school part-time – generally apprenticeship programs.

The bursaries are intended to support the recipients' ability, through further education, to make a contribution to the Yukon.

Recipients of \$1000 awards are:

- **Alanna Warner**

- **Colleen Stinson**  
*(Don Galbraith Award)*

- **Jenny Charchun**
- **Benjamin Bryce**
- **Sina Kazemi**
- **Amanda Fraser**
- **Michael Fraser**

\$500 award recipients are:

- **Blair Vigeant**  
*(John Irving Trades Award)*
- **Scott Hoffman**  
*(Trades Award)*

## YEU donations help many

The Yukon Employees' Union continued its commitment to assist organizations and events working for the betterment of our community. In the last 12 months, YEU contributed to a wide range of constructive community initiatives.

The following list highlights some of the programs YEU assisted.

- **PSAC Regional Women's Committees** \$750
- **Yukon Learn Society**  
*PGI Golf Tournament* \$1,000
- **Cycle to Walk Campaign** \$1,000

- **Yukon Pride Committee**  
*King & Queen Dance* \$250
- **Canadian Cancer Society** \$500
- **Kinette Club of Whitehorse**  
*Share the Spirit Campaign* \$300
- **Yukon Teachers Association**  
*White Ribbon Campaign* \$300
- **YOOP Ladies Auxilliary** \$320
- **Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition** \$300
- **PSAC Regional Youth Committee**  
*Hang Your Hat Campaign* \$200
- **Blue Feather Society**  
*Music Festival* \$500

- **Young Women Exploring Trades Conference** \$750
- **Whitehorse Fire Department**  
*Firefighter Combat Challenge* \$200
- **Vanier Secondary School**  
*Supporting a group of youth travelling to the Dominican Republic to work with the poor* \$500
- **Special Olympics** \$500
- **Yukon Federation of Labour**  
*Women's Bursary Fund* \$250
- **Yukon Federation of Labour**  
*Workers Memorial Fund* \$200

## BC Nurses Union protecting health care rights

The B.C. Nurses' Union won a substantial victory in its on-going battle against the provincial government for failing to enforce the laws of medicare.

BCNU filed suit against the province in 2005. The province

attempted to get the case thrown out of court, however, Mr. Justice Kelleher of the B.C. Supreme Court found that the union had raised a serious legal issue.

He also ruled that the Union is allowed to raise issues of health

care policy beyond those narrowly defined as labour relations issues, and the union may continue to pursue the case because it is in the genuine interest of its members.

Congratulations to BCNU for broadening the rights of unions.

# YEU from the President



This week YEU holds its Triennial Convention at the Westmark Whitehorse. As most of our members know by now, I

will be putting my name forward for re-election as YEU President.

The last three years have been challenging, frustrating and rewarding in equal measures – but throughout my tenure the interaction with you, our members and the deep personal bonds that resulted, remain the high point.

A look back through the term of this Executive offers a useful perspective from which to evaluate how far we've come.

## Leadership Transition

This three-year term began with the leadership transition from Brother Dave Hobbis, the only President our Union had ever known – to a new and inexperienced team. Fortunately, the dedication and commitment of our Executive members, the assistance offered by Dave, and the support provided by Union staff members eased the burdens of transition.

## Rural Outreach

One of my commitments to members at the last Triennial Convention was to initiate a rural outreach program. The goal was to provide better access to the Union leaders for members working outside Whitehorse. During these community visits it became clear that many members also wanted a

more direct voice in the affairs of their Union.

We responded to this need by encouraging and assisting in the creation of two additional Locals for Yukon Government employees – one in Dawson City for the Klondike region, and another in Watson Lake. Discussions with other communities about forming Locals are continuing.

We were also pleased to see workers at the Yukon Legislative Assembly (NDP Caucus) organize and achieve a collective agreement. Our newest Local, comprised of Watson Lake municipal workers, is in the midst of forming and working towards negotiation of their first Collective Agreement.

All new and prospective Locals have or will have the opportunity to receive training programs held in their community

## Collective Bargaining

In terms of our existing bargaining units, the new leadership was committed to maintaining hard-fought gains, while simultaneously introducing the changes expected by our membership. I'm pleased that we were able to make good on these commitments.

Five collective agreements were successfully negotiated and the groundwork has been laid for negotiations toward a new agreement for our largest Local, the Government of Yukon.

## Essential Services

The fundamental services required

by our members were effectively delivered. In fact, we have seen enhanced delivery of representation and support services through the hiring of a third Union Advisor. This additional position improved response time and allowed for more proactive support for members, Shop Stewards and Locals, particularly in work units experiencing ongoing problems.

## Training and Development

All new and prospective Locals have had the opportunity to receive training programs held in their community. Members had access to a variety of educational opportunities through programs provided by YEU, PSAC and the Yukon Federation of Labour. Monthly Shop Steward Round Tables (in person and by teleconference) allowed discussions about day-to-day issues faced by representatives in the workplace.

Our three Union Advisors are looking forward to opportunities for member training and increased Shop Steward Recruitment. Shop Stewards are the direct link to members in the workplace.

## Union-Management Relations

A major goal of this administration was to improve the relationship between our member's employers and their Union. We have worked to reduce confrontations and emphasized the benefits of cooperation. For example, presently we are meeting with Deputy Ministers from various government departments to ensure work-

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## Special thanks to our members who served on the Executive during the past three years

### Current Executives

- **Laurie Butterworth**  
President
- **Loralee Kesler**  
1st Vice-President
- **Steve Geick**  
2nd Vice-President
- **Jo-Anne Smith**  
Secretary
- **Mike Travill**  
Treasurer
- **Sharleen Patterson**  
Director
- **Sue Christianson**  
Director
- **Julie Docherty**  
Director
- **Tom Renwick**  
Director

- **Eric Petersen**  
Director

### Previous 2005-2008 Executives

- **Russ Carpenter**  
Director
- **Richard Gordon**  
Director
- **Mark Bowers**  
Director
- **Naresh Prasad**  
Treasurer
- **Ron Davis**  
Youth Director
- **Brent Mekelburg**  
Youth Director
- **Ghyslain (Meo) Rozon**  
Equal Opportunities Director

## President's Message

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place access for our representatives during Shop Steward Recruitment initiatives.

### Co-operative Programs

We continued our productive working relationship with the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board and the Yukon Human Rights Commission. As well, we worked with the Yukon Federation of Labour to ensure our members have access to the finest in training opportunities.

### Union Hall Renovations

And, of course, we undertook the long-needed renovations of your union hall. We expect the work to be completed in November, and welcome all members to make use of the facility.

I congratulate our outgoing Executive members for their hard work. Our strength is derived from our solidarity. Our Union will only remain strong if our members make it so. I'm proud to have served with such a dedicated group of activists.

## YEU calendar

### Advanced Health & Safety Training

Nov. 15-18, Location TBA. Contact PSAC

### 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 Wed., 7:30 p.m., YEU Hall

### Local Y025 Monthly Meeting

3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m., YEU Hall

### Local Y026 Monthly Meeting

3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m. Dawson City

### PSAC Regional Access Committee

Every third Thursday. 5:10 p.m., YEU Hall



**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.  
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