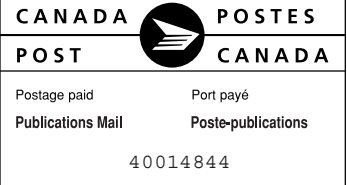


RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

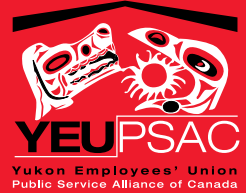


2285-2nd Ave.  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1C9



# YEU NEWS

All About YEU – Your Union March 2009



Posted on [www.yeu.ca](http://www.yeu.ca) Mar. 30

## Bargaining process for Yukon government employees begins

# Now is the time to have your say

The member-input phase of the collective bargaining process for workers employed by the Yukon government has begun. The current collective agreement with the government expires on December 31, 2009. Yukon legislation allows the formal negotiating process to start at the beginning of October this year.

Well before your union representatives meet face-to-face with the employer, a process takes place designed to ensure that individual union members have the opportunity to have a say about the position presented at the bargaining table.

Your input into the union's bargaining position will help ensure that the final package presented to the employer accurately addresses your concerns. A **Bargaining Input Form** is included with this newsletter – so you can directly inform your Bargaining Input Committee (BIC) about your concerns and suggestions for the coming negotiations. Our members'

collective input influences the priorities set by the Bargaining Input Team team.

The union accepts any and all proposals. Following the close of the input period, the BIC (comprised of members elected or appointed



Pre-bargaining team members representing employees of the Yukon government meet to review submissions in 2006.

for all worksites) meets to review the submissions. They then develop our package for presentation to the employer.

The nomination period for seats on Bargaining Input Committee is now open. Our goal is to have each and every Yukon government worksite represented. This newsletter also includes three copies of a **Bargaining Input Committee Nomination Form**. If you wish to participate or to nomi-

nate another member from your worksite, complete and return one or more of these forms.

Notices of election for contested positions on the BIC will be posted on your workplace bulletin board. The six members of your Negotiating Team will be elected from this committee.

Successful collective bargaining requires the participation and support of the union's members. Please take the time to speak with your co-workers and review your workplace concerns. Identify, either col-

lectively or as an individual, changes to the Collective Agreement that you would like to see introduced. Fill in the **Bargaining Input Form**, or simply write your requests on a sheet of paper. Fax or mail your input to the Yukon Employees' Union, or send your input by e-mail to [adminsec@yeu.ca](mailto:adminsec@yeu.ca).

If you require any further information call YEU at 667-2331.

## PSAC Yukon Regional Aboriginal People's Committee formed

On Tuesday, March 24, the PSAC Yukon Regional Aboriginal Peoples Committee held their inaugural meeting at the YEU Hall.

This committee will provide a voice for all First Nation, Métis and Inuit members, and their non-

Aboriginal allies in the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

Attendees enjoyed home-made chili and fresh bannock, while being entertained by First Nations musicians. A panel, with guest participants including Public Service

Commissioner Pat Daws and PSAC North Regional Executive Vice-President Jean François Des Laurier discussed the issue of Employment Equity in the Yukon.

See page 3 for more information and photograph.

## The Métis – a history of struggle

Métis history dates from the mid-seventeenth century. The word describes a Canadian people of mixed European and Aboriginal blood.

Over time, distinct Métis communities formed outside aboriginal and European cultures and settlements. Inter-marriage between Métis women and men resulted in the genesis of a distinct Aboriginal people.

Today their homeland extends into the NWT and the Yukon, west across British Columbia, and south into parts of the United States.

Once insultingly called half-breeds (a term rejected as far back as the days of Louis Riel) many were referred to as Non-Status Indians. The Métis are now one of three officially-recognized Aboriginal peoples of Canada, along with the First Nations and the Inuit.

Métis people arrived in the Yukon before the Gold Rush. Some came up the Liard River; some down the Mackenzie or across the mountains into the Klondike, Ross River or Old Crow regions. There are early records of Métis Anglican and

Catholic Church ministers in both Ross River and Old Crow.

Prior to the creation of 'land set aside', Métis and First Nations people generally shared territory, usually in peace. Although their cultures were distinct, they shared harvesting areas and family ties. They hunt, fish, trap, pick berries, live on the land and feel its spirit within them.

The Métis have survived many clashes with other ethnic groups as a result of their mixed heritage. Even today, the struggle for full recognition continues.

Métis people share many concerns and experiences with their First Nations brothers and sisters. Their children were taken to residential schools; they faced declarations that they were not a true aboriginal people; they suffered from poverty, lack of housing, and denial of opportunity.

There are Métis street kids, and family members who suffer with addictions. They have been resettled, and cheated out of their property. Yet in the Yukon, their

cultural and constitutional rights continue to be denied.

In the 2006 census, approximately 800 Yukoners identified themselves as Métis – a significant increase from the 1996 census. Potentially, they represent a powerful force for change. The Yukon Métis Nation Society now numbers more than 150 members.

As labour unions have amply demonstrated, there is great strength in numbers and in camaraderie. Métis people recognize that facing adversity with the help of friends is better than struggling alone. United with other Aboriginal people, they can win the fight for their rights.

The launch of the PSAC Yukon Regional Aboriginal People's Committee is a significant step forward for aboriginal union members. The Yukon Métis Nation Society looks forward to working with other First Nations and their union sisters and brothers.

For more information on the Yukon Métis Nation Society, email [pdbastien@northwestel.net](mailto:pdbastien@northwestel.net).

# YEU from the President



**The Yukon government is formalizing the Yukon Hospital Corporation's (YHC) participation in the management of the Watson Lake Hospital.**

Initially, it will be under terms of a 13-month Management Agreement. The government took this action in spite of concerns expressed by our members working at the Watson Lake facility.

Over the term of this management agreement, we will remain watchful due to the significant differences between the collective agreements governing YHC employees, and the superior agreement in place for our Watson Lake members

working for the Yukon government.

YEU will send 10 delegates to the PSAC Triennial Convention taking place in late April. We have been reviewing the resolution package, and preparing for our pre-presentation of numerous resolutions on our members' behalf.

As we begin another collective bargaining process for government workers, it is interesting to note that Premier Fentie has been boasting about the large size of the Yukon budget surplus. We will be watching negotiations toward a new agreement for our sisters and



**2009 PSAC Yukon Regional Aboriginal Peoples Committee: left to right – Rhonda Mclsaac (Chair), Chrys Antaya, Kin Rondeau, Linda Moen, Charles Pugh, Emile Aubichon and Doug Bishop**

brothers in the Yukon Teachers Association. Perhaps we can gain a sense about the tone our negotiating team will face during our own talks, and if the surplus will be reflected in the employer's position.

On April 28, workers across Canada gather on the National Day of Mourning. Please join us during this year's commemoration.

## YEU PSAC health & safety committee

The PSAC Yukon Regional Health & Safety Committee consists of Yukon PSAC members who share an interest in worker health and safety. They advocate for the rights of workers by asking difficult questions and raising issues outside worksite committee responsibilities.

The committee invites YEU members to submit written questions about health and safety matters. All questions will be reviewed by the committee and answered as soon as possible.

Unless you request otherwise, the questions and answers will be

posted in the YEU newsletter so all members can learn what issues are of concern. Here is this month's question and answer:

### QUESTION:

I saw a recent WCB announcement that said – "workers are not required to file a *Report of Injury/Illness* form with the YWCHSB for workplace injuries that don't require medical attention beyond the jobsite or loss of work time beyond the day of injury."

What does "beyond the job site" mean, and if I don't report my injury to WCB, what happens if it flares up later?

### ANSWER:

"Medical attention beyond the jobsite" defines medical care over and above what jobsite first aid can provide, even though you may never have left your jobsite.

Although it is no longer necessary to report all injuries to YWCHSB, it is still very important to document them. All workplace injuries should be reported to your supervisor, and a *Worker Incident Report* should be completed and given to your Employer. These forms should be available at your worksite; if they are not, contact your

*continued on page 4*

# YEUP SAC health & safety committee

## Health & Safety Q & A

*Continued from page 3*

worksite Health & Safety Committee member.

Keep a copy of the *Worker Incident Report*. If first aid is administered at the worksite, record the details in the department's First Aid Book. The necessary facts about the injury are: date of injury, time, location (of injury & worksite where injury occurred), witness names (if any), first aid treatment performed (if any), and a brief description of the injury and incident that caused it.

If the injury becomes more serious, this report will provide vital information to substantiate a future claim. Please remember that if a

workplace injury is not reported or documented at the time it occurs, and later develops into a more serious condition, it is very hard to recall the details needed to support your claim.

### ***It's YOUR claim – protect YOUR rights!***

**ALWAYS:** Document and Report ALL workplace injuries to your Employer, **AND:** File a Report of Injury/Illness with YWCHSB when one or both of the following apply:

1. You require medical care off the jobsite, or
2. You lose work time beyond the day of injury.

## YEUCalendar

### **Stand Up Yukon**

Apr 3-5, High Country Inn

### **Local Y017 Annual General Meeting**

Wed., May 6, 7:30 p.m., YEU Hall

### **YEU Monthly Executive Meeting**

2nd Thurs., 6:30-9:00 p.m., YEU Hall

### **Local Y010 Monthly Meeting**

2nd Wed., 5:00-7:00 p.m., YEU Hall

### **Local Y017 Monthly Meeting**

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

### **Local Y023 Monthly Meeting**

1st Thurs., Noon

### **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**

3rd Thurs., 5:15 p.m., YEU Hall

### **Aboriginal Peoples Committee**

1st Fri., Noon

### **Racially Visible Committee**

1st Wed., 5:00-7:00 p.m.

### **PSAC Regional Women's Committee**

1st Mon., Noon

### **Pride Committee**

2nd Tues., Noon

## Yukon PSAC Health and Safety Committee Contact Information:

PSAC Rep: Sue Christianson  
Phone: (867) 667-2331, or toll free 1-888-YEU-2331

Email: ChristiS@psac-afpc.com

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Local Y017

Wednesday, May 6, 2009  
7:30 p.m. in the YEU Board Room

### DOOR PRIZES

4 x \$100.00 Gift Certificates for the following unionized organizations: City of Whitehorse (*bus pass, punch pass, leisure guide activity*), Yukon Electric, Superstore, NorthwesTel

### CONTACTS

Carol Oberg:  
668-7481 (h), 667-5091 (w)  
Jean Dacko  
phone : 668-7268



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

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email: [contacts@yeu.ca](mailto:contacts@yeu.ca); Web: [www.yeu.ca](http://www.yeu.ca)

### 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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