

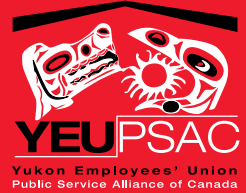


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YEU NEWS

All About YEU – Your Union December 2010



Posted on www.yeu.ca Dec. 17

2010 Shop Steward's Conference delivers the goods Shop Steward skills strengthened

More than 50 shop stewards and local representatives met in Whitehorse on November 19-20 for the 2010 Shop Steward's Conference.

The conference provided Shop Stewards and local executives with an opportunity to enhance their ability to represent their members. They discussed workplace issues and solutions, improved their communication skills, and shared information, experience and ideas.

Fifteen presenters from YEU and PSAC, and one YTG manager delivered training modules on subjects such as:

- The Duty-to-Accommodate and Plans for Return-to-Work
- Mental Illness in the Workplace
- Health & Safety Committees
- Protecting Collective Agreement Rights
- Writing Grievances
- Getting to Know Your Collective Agreement
- Grievance Processes—From Filing to Adjudication

- Confident Communication—Collaboration vs Confrontation
- Bullying—the Other Harassment
- Safe Workplaces

- Caring for the Roots
- Learning and Growing
- Looking After Our Members, and
- Reaping the Harvest.



More than 50 delegates and 15 presenters work for two full days to enhance the skills needed to better represent YEU members.

- The Power of Participation; Joint Labour Management Meetings
- Problem Solving Meetings—Making Them Work, and
- Finding a Balance—Work, Union & Personal life.

Plenary sessions framed the conference objectives with sessions titled:

The training was delivered through presentations, participatory workshops, role playing and group discussions.

The sessions were a joint effort by YEU staff and executives, PSAC and member facilitators from Ottawa, Vancouver and Yellowknife.

Two of our Stewards received special awards in recognition of their contributions (*see page 3 for details*).

The feedback from participants was extremely positive. We thank our Shop Stewards and local representatives for sacrificing their weekends to take part.

May all members of our YEU family have a safe and joyous holiday season.



Annual Open House celebrates gains

YEU members and friends of the union gathered on December 10 at the union hall to celebrate International Human Rights Day. This was the 9th annual human rights open house held by the union.

The event recognizes the progress made over the past year in the advancement of human rights around the world. It celebrates those accomplishments and provides an opportunity to renew our commitment to the advancement of human rights in the coming year.

Respect for human rights and human dignity “is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”, declared the United Nations General Assembly in the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.



The Day formally marks the anniversary of the Assembly’s adoption of the declaration. And for the second

straight year, the Yukon Employees’ Union welcomed representatives from the Whitehorse Food Bank to join us at the event to solicit contributions.

YEU donated \$5 to the food bank for ever person who attended and signed the guest book. The amount raised was then topped up to bring the total donation to \$1000.

The event welcomed everyone to join the celebration, and to partake in the refreshments and fine food offered.

Music was provided by classical guitarist Nicholas Mah.



YFL holds Triennial Convention

The Yukon Federation of Labour held their 1st Triennial Convention on December 10 and 11 at the High Country Inn. Twenty-six delegates from labour unions across the territory were in attendance. Observers from other provinces and territories also attended including Amber Hockin, Regional Director of the CLC Pacific Region, BC Federation of Labour President Jim Sinclair, and UNW President Todd Parsons.

The convention dealt with issues of joint concern to members and the public in general, such as the treatment of foreign workers coming to the territory under the *Seasonal Foreign Worker Nominee Program*.

The convention approved many resolutions, including ones calling for the

relocation of the Workers’ Advocate Office to fall under the jurisdiction of YFL, creation of a permanent Workers’ Memorial, expansion of the Canada Pension Plan, and a call for affiliates to resist employer attacks on benefits and sick leave.

A three-year budget received approval, and the election of a new executive for the next three years followed. Alex Furlong was re-elected President. Four other executive positions were filled (three by members of the Yukon Employee’s Union):

- Julie Docherty, 1st Vice-President,
- Vickki Quocksister, 2nd VP
- Del Young, Secretary, and
- Laurie Butterworth, Treasurer.

Nine Executive Council members were also elected along with 3 trustees.

Energy corporation negotiations reach impasse

Negotiations between the Public Service Alliance of Canada and Yukon Energy Corporation Local Y024 broke off on December 3, 2010.

The Union will be applying for conciliation. We look forward to reaching a fair deal for the workers at the Yukon Energy Corporation.

Join us on Facebook!

It’s a great way for YEU members to discuss issues, learn about coming events, or just stay in touch.

YEU from the President



The holiday season offers us a chance to reflect up the year past and enjoy a special time with friends and family. I wish all our members and friends a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Years Day.

The close of 2010 marks the conclusion of my last full year as YEU President. In the coming months, preparations will begin in earnest for our next Triennial Convention in October, and the election of a new Executive.

I urge the members of all our Locals to use the months ahead to develop ideas and input for the convention, and to consider stepping forward to assume a greater role in YEU's operation. After all, the Yukon Employees' Union is your union, not a distant, unapproachable organization.

Our triennial conventions chart the course for the next three years. They give all members a chance for direct input into the decisions and actions of the union. I urge you to take ownership, and get involved.

Shop Steward's Conference

Our first Shop Steward's Conference was more successful than I could have hoped. The turn-out and level of participation by our activists was inspiring.

I believe that the information shared and the lessons learned will vastly improve our ability to represent members at the front-line—your workplace.

The full conference agenda is posted online at www.yeu.ca. I suggest you take a moment to see what was offered. Then consider becoming a Shop Steward. It is personally rewarding, and helpful to all our members.

Human Rights Day Open House

YEU's open house in honour of International Human Rights Day again provided a chance to meet with members and friends in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere. I thank YEU members and the public for coming out and helping us mark the day. My thanks are also extended to the YEU staff for making this event successful year in and out.

Once again we used the event to raise money for the Whitehorse Food Bank. YEU topped up our pledge of \$5 for every person who signed the guest book to \$1000. More money was raised from the generosity of individuals in attendance.

Collective Bargaining

We were disappointed to see the negotiations toward a new collective agreement for Yukon Energy workers reach an impasse. Now that the process is in the hands of a conciliator, we look forward to achieving a fair deal for our members.

Collective bargaining for members working at the City of Whitehorse made progress in spite of the employer's firm stance on some issues.

The Bargaining Team will meet again with municipal negotiators in January in an attempt to achieve a final deal.

Bullying and harassment in the workplace

I cannot emphasize enough that personal harassment and bullying at work is not to be tolerated. In spite of ongoing educational initiatives to help eliminate this problem, it still occurs.

YEU will be vigilant in its support of bullied workers, and will continue to share information that can help stop the problem entirely.

Shop Steward's work, dedication honoured

Members attending the 2010 Shop Stewards' Conference took time at the event's conclusion to recognize the contribution and dedication of local stewards.

Two members received special recognition: Elinore Frederickson was presented the Shop Steward of the Year Award for her many years of service, and Jessica Young received the Rookie Steward of the Year Award.



YEU President Laurie Butterworth presents the Shop Steward of the Year Award to Elinore Frederickson.



Rookie Steward Award recipient Jessica Young accepts her commendation with characteristic enthusiasm.

Congratulations to all our Shop Stewards for a job very well done.

UnionBook—a trade unionist's social network

UnionBook is a social networking website for trade unions. It is the only global social network built specifically for the trade union movement.

Similar on the surface to Facebook, it differs in key respects beyond its union focus. There is no advertising, respect for the privacy of its users is guaranteed, and it exists to help trade unionists organize, agitate and educate—not to make a profit.

Members are able to:

- make friends with other trade unionists from around the world
- join groups of interest or set-up new ones
- host their own blog

- upload pictures, music and videos
- chat live with other trade unionists
- post status updates that automatically update their Facebook or Twitter pages.

UnionBook is a project developed by LabourStart, an online news service maintained by a global network of volunteers. It serves the international trade union movement by collecting and disseminating information—and by assisting unions in campaigning and other ways.

LabourStart's features include daily labour news links in more than 20 languages and a news syndication service used by more than over 700 trade union

websites. News is collected from mainstream, trade union, and alternative news sources by a network of over 500 volunteer correspondents based on every continent.

Take a few minutes to check out **UnionBook**, and see how the trade union movement is using social networking opportunities to share information and facilitate communication.

www.unionbook.org

YEU calendar

Shop Steward Round Table

December 15, 9:00 a.m. til Noon, Dave Hobbis Board Room, 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

PSAC Aboriginal Peoples Committee

1st Tues., 5:15 p.m. on Oct. 5, then alternating between noon and 5:15 thereafter

PSAC Racially Visible Committee

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

PSAC Regional Women's Committee

2nd Tues., 5:15 p.m.

PSAC Health & Safety Committee

1st Thurs., 6:00 p.m.

Dawson Regional Women's Committee

1st Wed., 5:15 p.m., Legion Hall

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Yukon Employees' Union
Public Service Alliance of Canada

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address and name changes.
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