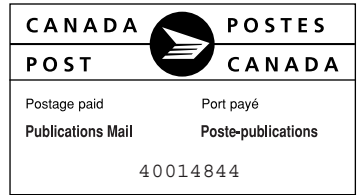


RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

Yukon Employees' Union
2285-2nd Ave.
Whitehorse, Yukon
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Yukon Employees' Union

NEWS

October 2011

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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Delegates gather to elect new leadership

2011 YEU Triennial Convention

The Yukon Employees' Union Triennial Convention will be held on October 28-30, 2011, at Mount McIntyre. Delegates representing all Locals will vote on thirty-five resolutions, bylaw changes and budget to guide the union over the next three years. On convention Sunday they will hear from candidates seeking election to the new Executive, and elect delegates to the next PSAC National Convention.

with the introduction of guests and opening remarks by outgoing President Laurie Butterworth. The full convention agenda is available for viewing on the YEU website.

Thirteen positions on the YEU Executive will be elected:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| President | 1st Vice-President |
| 2nd Vice-President | Treasurer |
| Secretary | Equal Opportunities Director |
| Youth Committee Director | 6 Directors |

In addition to the work of the convention, delegates and guests will hear from three guest speakers— PSAC National Vice-President Patti Ducarme, PSAC National President John Gordon, and PSAC Regional Executive Vice-President Julie Docherty.

As a member of the Yukon Employees' Union, you are encouraged to attend any or all the convention proceedings as observers. It is an excellent way to acquaint yourself with the policies and procedures through which your union is governed. YEU operates as a representative democracy. The Triennial Convention governs your union's activities over the next three years. Please come by to listen and learn, and perhaps be motivated to participate in the next triennial convention as a delegate.



Delegates gathered in 2008 for the last YEU Triennial Convention.

Selection of convention delegates and alternates was completed by the end of June. Each Local elected their own delegates – with a minimum delegate entitlement of two. Larger Locals elected one delegate for every fifty signed members.

Delegate registration occurs between 8 and 9 a.m. Friday morning, followed by three hours of convention procedure training. The work of the convention begins at 1:30 p.m.



October 28-30
YEU Triennial Convention
Mount McIntyre

It's your Union

Observations

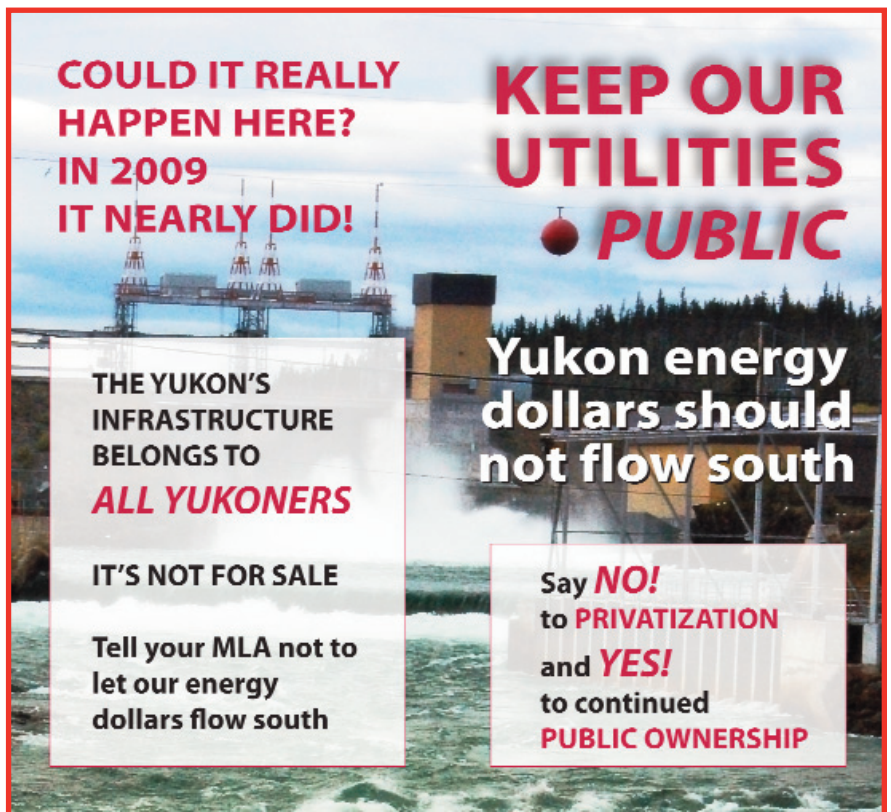
Privatization & infrastructure decay

The trappings of our civilization, from flushing the toilet to posting flip comments on Twitter, rely on a set of critical infrastructures. Many of these—water systems, transport links, electricity grids and generating plants—are aging severely in developed countries and regions, Canada among them; the *Yukon* among them.

The experience in Britain offers a useful lesson. Parts of its sewers, water system and railways date back to the early nineteenth century. The country's problems are compounded by the privatizations of the 1980s, which transferred the national infrastructure from technically competent public sector bureaucracies to profit-driven entities.

None of these firms has a stake in the 50- to 75-year timescales over which infrastructure elements show their worth, and many of them have since jettisoned research and development to save money. Investment in water, gas and electricity infrastructure fell from 0.9% of gross domestic product in the 1970s to 0.5% in 2006. Investment continues to fall, even as the decay accelerates.

In recent years the Yukon Party government has explored



various privatization initiatives. With their re-election, Yukoners don't know if infrastructure privatization could again be on the table. We should not be fooled into selling off our assets. They require investment and commitment.

Yukon Party commits to supporting the public service—let's hold them to it

"Yukon Party Leader Committed to Supporting Public Service", reads the headline on a news release published by the Yukon Party on October 3, 2011—eight days before the territorial general election.

As Premier Darrell Pasloski's Yukon Party embarks on their term this month, it's useful for members of the Yukon Employees' Union to take note of this news release and the commitment it contains.

The release states that, "A re-elected Yukon Party government is committed to promoting a professional relationship between government ministers and the public service".

It goes on to say that, "the role of cabinet ministers is to ensure government has a vision that reflects the public's wishes while providing professionals in the public service with the empowerment to carry out that vision."

Finally, Premier Pasloski expressed his commitment to "providing the approximately 4,700 Yukon government employees the training and resources to continue to carry out their duties effectively."

We would like to grant the government the benefit of the doubt. They are just beginning their term. Nevertheless, experience tells us to wait and see what they actually do.



YEU President
Laurie Butterworth

President's message

I begin my last newsletter message with a sincere, heartfelt thank you to the dedicated staff that works at the YEU office. They labour tirelessly each day to get the work done. Without their dedication to our union and membership, we would fall apart at the seams

membership, we would fall apart at the seams

I would like to also thank the executive for their patience, dedication, and commitment to the union and the membership. Without this group's support and advice, the job of president would have been far more difficult. They were always there to bounce ideas off and discuss current and ongoing issues facing the Union.

I thank the members for giving me the opportunity to lead and direct this ship through the sometimes turbulent waters over the past six years.

There are still changes that will need to be made in the coming years. I leave this in the capable hands of the members. This is *your* union. It's leaders need your ideas and support.

As our new leaders chart their course for the next three years, I ask that they consider the following ideas:

- We need to continue to involve our membership through education.

- We need to continue to involve them by providing opportunities to participate in the workings of their union.
- We need to involve our membership through organized activism.
- We need to keep on organizing the unorganized.
- We need to continue to support our community locals, and find ways to create even more—because with more locals comes a stronger voice.
- We need to continue to bring members to the bargaining table, and involve them in the collective bargaining process.

By helping ourselves, we help our community. By building the strength of our union, we are building the strength of our community.

With your support, we have been able to make positive changes to YEU. Personally, it has been extremely rewarding to fulfill what now seems like a lifelong journey through organized labour—to eventually become a Component President with the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

I wish new leadership all the best over the next years.

We are the union. We are the YEU.

A true Yukon union

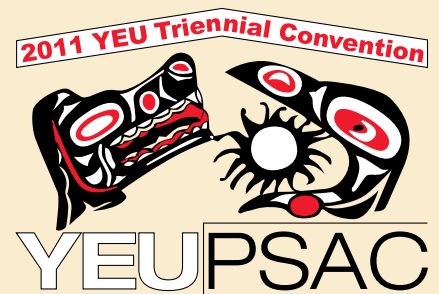
Over the past few years, the Yukon Employees' Union has fulfilled the directions of the last two Triennial Conventions to reach-out to rural members, and provide an opportunity for more direct participation in the union's governance.

The result of this rural outreach initiative has been increased educational opportunities for members living and working in communities outside of Whitehorse, and the creation of seven new rural locals. The Yukon Employees' Union has become a Yukon-wide presence, better representing the needs of members, and raising the profile of YEU as a force for positive change in rural communities.

The following Locals have been established as part of the rural outreach initiative:

- Klondike Local Y026
- Watson Lake & Tutchitua Local Y028

- Watson Lake Municipal Workers Local Y029
- Watson Lake Hospital Workers Local Y032
- City of Dawson Gold Rush Local Y033
- Mayo Heart of the Yukon Local Y034



YEU is committed to ensuring that all union members have a voice in its governance and an opportunity to participate directly in union affairs. If you would like more information on how Locals are organized, please contact YEU at 867-667-2331 or toll free at 1-888-YEU-2331.

Local news

Y010 Annual General Meeting

Members of Government of Yukon Local Y010 will meet on Tuesday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lucy Jackson Training Room for their Annual General Meeting.

Members will consider amendments to by-laws and elect new officers. Snacks will be provided.

YEU welcomes newest Local

Yukon government employees in Mayo held their first Annual General Meeting on September 1, 2011. Members of the new Heart of the Yukon Local Y034 ratified their by-laws and elected its first executive.

President: Darlene Hutton
Vice-President: William Leary
Secretary-Treasurer: Wendy Andre
Chief Shop Steward: Blair Andre
Shop Steward: Simon Mervyn (Stewart Crossing)

Congratulations to the new executive.

Member Tip:

Your Role in the Grievance Process

What is your role as grievor, while your grievance progresses through the steps of the grievance process?

First, of course, it is your job initially to approach your union representative and report the problem as you see it.

You will need to explain the facts as accurately as you can. Make sure that your representative understands not only what has happened, but why it is a matter of concern to you and, perhaps, your co-workers as well.

As the grievance progresses through the system, your Shop Steward or Union Advisor may need additional information to process the grievance or evaluate its status.

Since you have a stake in the outcome, be prepared to help them obtain any necessary information.

Building a winning grievance case is always a team effort.

— Adapted from *The Union Members Complete Guide*, by Michael Mauer

Meetings & Events

YEU 2011 Triennial Convention—October 28-30, Mount McIntyre, Whitehorse

Y010 Annual General Meeting—2nd Tuesday, November 22, 6:00 p.m., Lucy Jackson Training Room

YEU Monthly Executive Meeting—2nd Thurs., 6:30-9:00 p.m., YEU Hall

Y010 Monthly Meeting—2nd Wed., 5:00-7:00 p.m., YEU Hall

Y017 Monthly Meeting—4th Wed., 7:30 p.m., YEU Hall

Y023 Monthly Meeting—1st Thurs., Noon

Y025 Monthly Meeting—3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m., YEU Hall

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.

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

PSAC Regional Youth Committee—4th Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Lucy Jackson Training Room, YEU Hall

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