



PRESS RELEASE

November 8, 2006

UNION-GOVERNMENT RESOLVE WCC HOURS-OF-WORK DISPUTE

(WHITEHORSE, Yukon) – Representatives of the Yukon Employees' Union, the Department of Justice, and the employees and management of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre have achieved a resolution to the long-standing dispute involving hours-of-work.

YEU President Laurie Butterworth announced today that the Government of Yukon and the Public Service Alliance of Canada have agreed to amend the collective agreement to allow a return to 12-hour shifts. The government had allowed the schedule to revert to an older, less appropriate model when a scheduling agreement lapsed in January, 2006. That change had resulted in double shifts, seven-day work-weeks, staff shortages and significant overtime – all of which led to workplace stress and a prolonged labour dispute.

Butterworth said that he is pleased with the decision by the Department of Justice. “Our recent meetings with Justice, and in particular those with new Assistant Deputy Minister Robert Riches, were far more productive than past discussions”, he explained. “Justice recognized the benefits of a return to 12-hour schedules, and saw the need to find a compromise that worked for both sides. As in any negotiation there was give-and-take by both parties, but the resulting amendment to the collective agreement will ultimately be beneficial to all.”

Collective Agreement Section 15.12 – Hours of Work for employees at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre – was deleted in its entirety, and replaced by a new section defining hours-of-work for all WCC staff, and reinstating 12-hour shifts for Corrections Officers. The agreement was signed on November 6, 2006.

For more information, contact Laurie Butterworth, President, YEU: 667-2331.