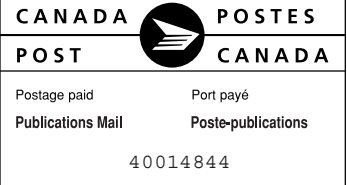


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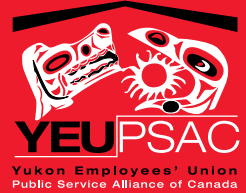
Yukon Employees' Union
Public Service Alliance of Canada
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YEU NEWS

All About YEU – Your Union

May 2007



Posted on www.yeu.ca May 25, 2007

Yukon government members vote Collective agreement ratified

YEU members employed by the Yukon government have voted to accept the recommendation of the Bargaining Committee—and ratify the tentative agreement with the Government of Yukon.

Voting was carried out at ratification meetings held in every community and/or job site where our members are employed by the Yukon government.

YEU held ratification meetings in Whitehorse on April 27 and 30. Members working shifts had the opportunity to vote at the YEU office on those afternoons. Teams of Bargaining Committee members travelled to rural locations between April 30 and May 3 to inform members, receive input and conduct voting. The ballots were counted on Saturday, May 5, at the YEU office.

Most provisions of the agreement came into force as soon as the positive voting result was known. The negotiated wage increase is retroactive to the January 1, 2007.

YEU President Butterworth endorsed the deal, although he acknowledges that hard decisions were made during the process. “We made some significant gains for our members. For example, benefits are now available to selected Auxiliary On-Call (AOC) workers on a pilot-project basis”.

The wage increase of 3% per year is consistent with that achieved by Yukon teachers. Other gains included an increase in acting pay, stand-by pay, premium allowances for community nursing practitioners, payment for after-hours work-related telephone calls, and a variety of other meaningful changes.

Most contentious for some members was the Bargaining Team’s decision to accept a 180 day cap on banked sick days. But this loss is mitigated by the fact that the 60 day payout for retiring members was retained. Workers facing serious long-term illness are eligible for disability insurance benefits.

Ratification of this collective agreement by no means represents an end to YEU’s negotiation cycle. Workers employed at Yukon College and at the Whitehorse General Hospital will be entering negotiations in the next few months.



YEU members employed by the Government of Yukon heard details of the tentative collective agreement at ratification meetings held in communities and at job sites across the territory.

2007 Day of Mourning

Workplace safety—it *must* be a priority

Yukon workers gathered on April 28 to mourn co-workers killed or injured on the job. The moving ceremony was held in the foyer of the Yukon government administration building.

Family, friends and co-workers shared their grief, and rededicated themselves to the job of fighting for a safe and secure workplace environment.

This year a march organized by BYTE (Bringing Youth Towards Equality) led young workers from the federal building to the ceremony site. Employees under the age of 25 represent the worker demographic most at risk of injury or death on the job.

BYTE's proactive statement highlighted the need for more safety precautions, on-the-job training and employer commitment—particularly at jobsites where Yukon young people are employed.



In 2006, five Yukon workers lost their lives on the job. Such losses are preventable. It merely takes a small amount of time and commitment. Let us hope 2007 will see an end to such preventable tragedies.

YTG failing to protect workers from violence

Issues relating to workplace safety have received increased scrutiny in the last few weeks due to the high number of Yukon on-the-job fatalities in the last year.

Beyond the need for proactive steps to prevent accidental injury and death, more needs to be done to prevent the threats and workplace violence that is endemic within certain everyday jobsite situations and careers.

The new YTG-PSAC Collective Agreement contains a Letter of Understanding "I" that states unequivocally, "The employer considers any act of violence on work property or at work-sponsored

activities to be a threat to the workplace and to the safety of its employees, and shall take appropriate action pursuant to the provisions of the Public Safety Act."

The Yukon government has published other statements, policy documents and commitments to workplace violence prevention. However, recent events show that these commitments have not yet percolated down through the management and supervisory levels.

One recent case brought to the attention of YEU shows that management actually instructed employees not to report incidents of a threatening and violent nature,

and tried to prevent an employee for exercising the right to file charges with the RCMP.

Such attempts to stifle incident reporting directly conflicts with the government's own policy, which states that, "Staff are expected to report all work related incidents and near misses to their supervisor immediately."

We remind all our members, and in particular those employed by the Government of Yukon, not to allow administrative officials to suppress incident reports. No worker should be required to accept fear of violence as an every day workplace reality.

YEUE from the President



Although a Collective Agreement has been ratified for workers employed by the

Yukon government, other YEU locals continue to work through the negotiation process.

Whitehorse General Hospital workers have selected their bargaining team, and forwarded proposals to the employer.

Employees at **Yukon College** have embarked on a pre-bargaining process, and successfully achieved agreement on several significant non-monetary issues.

The Yukon government Staff Relations Branch anticipates that

employees will receive their 1.8% retroactive pay increase (from January 1) on their July 4 pay-cheque, in addition to the 1.2% increase effective June 1.

PSAC North

I was in Yellowknife for week beginning May 23, to attend PSAC North meetings. Workshops addressed cross cultural awareness, activist recruitment and the PSAC North strategic plan.

New Locals

YEU is working with members employed by the Yukon government in Haines Junction and Watson Lake to explore the possibility of forming new locals. These discussions were initiated at our member's request following the ratification meetings held in both communities.

Arrangements are being made to facilitate a trip to Watson Lake in mid-June or July.

Workplace bullying

The issue of bullying in the workplace continues to plague Yukon worksites. Our position is one of absolute non-tolerance for bullying or abusive behaviour in any form.

I urge all our members to maintain a respectful workplace, to strive to eliminate bullying or verbal abuse, and to refuse to tolerate such behaviour in all circumstances.

PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy

YEU is sponsoring a team in the Peter Gzowski Golf Tournament for Literacy. Members interested in playing in the June 9 event should contact the YEU office asap.

A random draw to select the team members will be held.

YEU collective bargaining

YCEU bargaining team meets employer

The bargaining team representing the Yukon College Employees Union (YCEU) met with the employer's representatives on May 15, 16 and 17 at Ayamdigut Campus to discuss pre-bargaining proposals.

This new format was suggested by the employer as a way to discuss and come to agreement where possible on non-monetary items prior to meeting at the main negotiation table.

The YCEU team recognized this as an opportunity to develop a more

positive relationship with the employer during negotiations.

During the three days of pre-negotiations, the parties came to agreement on a number of items, including:

- Leave Without Pay
- Full Use of Vacation Leave
- Pay Administration Benefits
- Copyright Ownership
- Workloads and Overtime – Yukon College Instructors
- Joint Consultation
- Guidelines for Competitions and Appointments.

The atmosphere at the meetings was constructive and amiable. We

look forward to continued pre-negotiation discussions with the employer in June.

Whitehorse General Hospital

The negotiating committee for WGH employees met and selected its team of negotiators. The team members are Leslie Sofko, Chad Milford and Dawn Atkinson. Colleen Potter and Tish Platt were chosen as alternates.

Bargaining proposals have been forwarded to the employer, and meetings are scheduled to begin the week of June 25.

Locals elect new leaders

Local Y024

In the past month, members of three YEU Locals held elections for various position within their executive.

Yukon Utility Workers Association—Local Y024, held their AGM on Saturday, May 5. A new executive took office on that date.

- President:
Darrell Johnson
- Vice-President:
Ed Peake
- Sec-Treasurer:
Melanie Fillion
- District Rep:
Gary Jones

Our thanks to outgoing President Ken Sawyer and VP Steve Milner for a job well done.

Local Y023

City of Whitehorse—Local Y023 met for their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 16.

- President:
Craig Jarvis
- 1st Vice-President:
Debra Butler
- 2nd Vice-President:
Paul Gray
- Sec-Treasurer:
Rosemarie Lachnit
- Chief Shop Steward:
Liz Row

New YFL Bursaries

The Yukon Federation of Labour has created 3 new bursaries-awards for Yukon students. Each award is allocated to a different age category. Contact YFL at 667-6676 for details.

- Assistant Shop Steward:
Victor LeCheminant

Thanks to former President Darrell Blakney for your perseverance and dedication.

Local Y011

A special election was held for the position of President of Yukon College Local Y011 on Monday, May 14.

Christina Thomas takes over from Tracey-Lee Carmichael. Thank you Tracey-Lee for all your support!



YEU News is published by the Yukon Employees' Union.

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Fridays 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

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Denise L. Norman, Executive Director - contact for YEU and Local Executive Members; dnorman@yeu.ca

YEU calendar

Contact YEU for more information

Alliance Facilitator Training Program

June 7-10, 2007. Yellowknife, NT

Shop Steward Round Tables

Monthly, Every first Thursday. 9:00 a.m. until noon, YEU Hall.

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 Thurs., 7:30 p.m., YEU Hall

Local Y025 Monthly Meeting

2nd Tues., 4:30 p.m., YEU Hall