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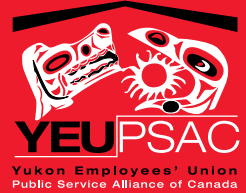
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Public Service Alliance of Canada
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YEU

NEWS

All About YEU – Your Union February 2008



Posted on www.yeu.ca Mar. 11

Convention planning, education initiatives, new positions YEU gearing up for an active spring

2008 is shaping up to be a significant year in the continuing development of the Yukon Employees' Union. Convention planning, education initiatives and administrative changes are all on the agenda.

2008 YEU Triennial Convention

Planning is well underway for the **6th YEU Triennial Convention**. The 2008 event will be held October 25 and 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Westmark Whitehorse.

A membership reconciliation will be completed by early April to finalize Local delegate numbers. A call letter will then be sent to all YEU Locals. Each month thereafter an itemized list of critical activities and deadlines will be checked off as the convention dates approach.

We remind all YEU members, that this is YOUR union. While there are many ways to make your voice

heard, none is more influential than the voice of a convention delegate. If you are interested in taking part in the convention and becoming a delegate, make your interest know



PSAC members and supporters rallied outside the Westmark Whitehorse on February 18, during the Treasury Board President's address. They were voicing their concern about cuts to public programs.

to others in your local; then watch for details about the process of delegate selection.

To facilitate the distribution of convention information, YEU will devote a column in each newsletter leading up to the convention. Updates will also be posted on a regular basis on the www.yeu.ca.

PSAC North Convention

The 4th Triennial Convention of PSAC North, the body that represents all members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada working or residing in the North, will be held this year in Yellowknife, NWT. The event will take place on the weekend of May 30-June 1, 2008. The Resolutions Committee will meet in Yellowknife in early March.

The PSAC North Regional Health and Safety Conference will be held in conjunction with the PSAC North Convention on May 29, 2008.

This year YEU partnered with the Yukon Area Council to charter an aircraft to fly delegates to the convention. Approximately 40 delegates are expected to attend. The purpose was to ensure that a full contingent of delegates from the Yukon will be in attendance.

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Active spring

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Regional Executive Vice-President
Jean-François Des Lauriers is



Regional Executive Vice-President
Jean François Des Lauriers

seeking reelection at the convention. YEU enthusiastically supports Jean François' candidacy.

Administrative changes

Your Union's administration is pleased to advise our members that a third Union Advisor position has been created. Recruitment is underway.

The position was developed to address YEU's commitment to expanding our ability to assist Locals and provide general membership information and develop awareness. Along with the two general memberships union advi-

sors already on staff, they will be devoting considerable energy to education.

STEP student

YEU has been approved for funding through the Yukon Student Training and Employment Program (STEP). The purpose of STEP is to offer Yukon post-secondary students the opportunity to work in the Yukon during the summer in their chosen field of study.

YEU is currently seeking applicants pursuing studies in library sciences, history, human resource management or labour studies.

Annual YEU Executive Retreat Upcoming

The Executive members of the Yukon Employees' Union will meet for their annual retreat and planning session on the 14th and 15th of March.

Twice in their three-year mandate, the officers have gathered to review activities, identify unfinished business, and develop an action plan in the final session before the convention. The focus of discussions will be the convention, as well as how best to establish a forum for members to communicate with the Executive after the convention..

Whistle-blower Protection

The Yukon Legislative Assembly established a Select Committee on

Whistle-blower Protection in May, 2007. The committee is assigned with the task of reviewing and reporting to the Assembly, its findings and recommendations about the proposed legislation. The committee plans to meet on Thursday, March 13, 2008, to consider written submissions it has received.

The Yukon Employees' Union has long advocated for effective whistle-blower protection. Accordingly, your Union has prepared a formal, written submission that states our position on the critical issues.

We look forward to the opportunity to present our position to the Select Committee, and to the successful creation of whistle-blower legislation that provides effective protection to workers in both the public and private sectors.

WCB Choices Program

YEU supports the work of the Yukon Workers' Compensation, Health and Safety Board to reduce the number of workplace injuries and deaths. The Union also supports WCB initiatives that reward employers for steps taken to protect its workers.

Choices is a voluntary incentive program based upon employers' applications. Employers may choose not to participate; however, minimum Occupational Health and Safety Act and regulations still apply.

YEU has committed to participation in the program. Our commitment not only supports the Choices initiative, but reduces costs through access to the program's rewards provisions.

YEU from the President



Spring is usually a busy time at YEU, but this year more than most. Our Triennial Convention may be a brief 3 day event, but preparations are a long, demanding and time consuming process. We are now fully engaged in that process.

We are active on many other fronts as well. The PSAC North convention is being held this year in Yellowknife at the end of May. We're pleased to have so many members attending that we could charter an aircraft to transport all 40 people.

We're taking steps to improve services to our members by adding an additional Union Advisor, and have created a temporary position for a STEP student. Our new toll free number improves access to assistance for rural members.

Road Trips

I travelled to Dawson City the week of March 10 for community meetings about TILMA, and to seek bargaining input from members of Klondike Local Y018. They will begin the process of collective bargaining shortly.

I also met with political leaders and representatives of the First Nation.

I will travel to Watson Lake for a meeting with members on March 25. Y010 President Del Young and

Second VP Steve Geick will join me to explain about the benefits of forming a regional Local.

Later this spring we will visit Haines Junction, where we will meet with Yukon government employees to explore the possibility of forming a local there.

Short Shifts at WCC

The Union is investigating concerns about staff shortages at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

We have been told that management is operating shifts with an inadequate number of staff members as a cost saving measure. Shifts are also being run with an inappropriate gender balance, in violation of WCC policy. These deficiencies place our members in increased danger.

RYTS Slow to Respond

The Union met with management at Residential Youth Treatment Services recently. We have been disappointed with the department's slow response to our request for completion of a risk-assessment on their service delivery.

We want to know if the government intends to re-examine how they are dealing with youth-at-risk, and the impact on current procedures on our member-employees.

It's time for the Department of Justice to stop delaying and take action to protect the health and safety of workers and residents in the Yukon's youth treatment facilities.

Convention 2008

Beginning this month, YEU will present a column devoted to the upcoming Triennial Convention.

It will feature times, dates, descriptions of current and upcoming activities, and information about how to participate.

The importance of the Triennial Convention to our members cannot be overstated. In addition to passing bylaws to govern the operation of your Union in the next three years, officers will be elected to lead YEU during this period.

Role of Delegates

The role of convention delegates extends well beyond the few days during which the event is held. They remain active throughout the three year period, voting on critical decisions affecting the ongoing operation of your Union, including alterations to budgeted expenditures. As such, convention delegates have a direct role in just how your Union dues are used over the next three years.

Watch this column in the months preceding the convention to learn about how you can participate in the governance of your Union.

April Activities

Distribution of a Call Letter advising Locals of the convention, deadlines for delegate registration, regional representative requirements and delegate entitlements.

Meetings held in Dawson City

TILMA Meetings

YEU President Laurie Butterworth travelled to Dawson City along with representatives of the Yukon Federation of Labour to meet with community leaders. The focus of the meetings was on the proposed Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA).

The TILMA agreement will strip our lawmakers of their power, jeopardize our autonomy, and endanger our rights as citizens.

A Town Hall meeting was held. Union representatives also met with the mayor and First Nations representatives.

KVA Collective Bargaining

Employees of the Klondike Visitors Association Local Y018 in Dawson City are preparing for negotiations toward achieving a new collective agreement. The current agreement expires on April 30, 2008.

YEU President Butterworth met with members during the trip to Dawson. A Notice to Bargain has been submitted to the employer from the Public Service Alliance of Canada. Bargaining input was accepted from members at the Dawson meeting and will be also be accepted by mail.

Call YEU Toll Free

YEU members living or working outside Whitehorse can now call the Union office toll free.

In the past, our members could call the Union office collect. The new toll free number will make it easier for members to reach union representatives, and speed the process gaining information and support.

**Call YEU Toll Free:
1-888-YEU-2331**



YEU News is published by the Yukon Employees' Union.

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YEU calendar

Watson Lake Meeting

Meet YEU President Butterworth. Tuesday, March 25. Call 1-888-YEU-2331 for info.

Local Y023 AGM

May 7, 5:35 p.m., Canada Games Centre

Workers' Compensation Courses

Presented by YFL. Call 667-6676.

Shop Steward Round Tables

Monthly, every second Wednesday. 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 Wed., 7:30 p.m., YEU Hall

Local Y025 Monthly Meeting

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

Local Y026 Monthly Meeting

3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m., YTG Property Management building, Dawson City.