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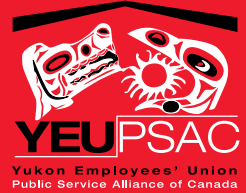


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# YEU NEWS

All About YEU – Your Union Aug-Sept 2009



Posted on [www.yeu.ca](http://www.yeu.ca) Sept 17

Union members prepare for negotiations; fight to protect utilities from privatization

## Labour Day foreshadows active winter

For Yukon union members, this will be a winter of intense activity.

The horizon is clouded by a worldwide economic turndown and back-room negotiations that threaten the job security of some of our members. In the midst of this, bargaining input committee representatives from YEU's largest Local are preparing for collective bargaining.

Discussions about the road ahead provided fodder for many conversations at the Labour Day *Feed the People Barbecue*.

The annual event sponsored by Local Y010 took place this year in Shipyards Park. Union members served free lunches to everyone who turned out.

This year's gathering was an opportunity for union members and friends to meet informally, exchange views, and enjoy camaraderie over a hot meal.

The event also kicked off the *Think Public* campaign. This public in-

formation initiative sponsored in the Yukon by YEU and the Yukon Area Council, began with the distribution of brochures developed by YEU, and mailed to all Yukon households. Posters are being placed around the communities, and the Area Council is distributing key chain flashlights and bags to help keep the campaign in the public eye.



The short-term focus of the campaign is the threat posed by behind-the-scenes discussions about the future of electrical service delivery in the territory.

Yukon labour organizations have assumed a prominent role in the fight to maintain public ownership of our utilities and infrastructure. Across Canada, organized labour continues to fight the growing use of Public-Private Partnerships that lead to profit for a few built upon increased costs and decreased service for most.

*continued on Page 4*

### YEU loses a dear friend

Beloved elder Lucy Jackson passed away September 10. Lucy, a Tlingit First Nation woman, was an Honorary PSAC member.



Lucy Jackson with PSAC National President John Gordon.

She worked for years as an active trade unionist, taking union courses and adding her wise, down-to-earth input into discussions. She attended local and national conferences as both a panelist and delegate, where she spoke to resolutions against racism.

Lucy added her voice to many community discussions, and served on the Teslin Tlingit Council and as a Councillor for the Hamlet of Ibex Valley where she had lived since 1961.

After taking disability retirement in 1991, she continued to participate in union and community functions. Lucy encouraged other First Nation women to become better informed, and to work together to bring about change.

Lucy Jackson was both a friend and compatriot of the Yukon Employees' Union. Her passing is a profound loss for our community.

# YEU training opportunities

PSAC will be offering the following courses this fall:

- **Talking Union Basics (TUB)**  
September 18 & 19, Whitehorse
- **Local Officers Advanced Training (LOAT)**  
October 1-4, Whitehorse
- **Alliance Facilitators Training Program**  
November 5-8, Whitehorse
- **Women at Work**  
December 5-8, Whitehorse

Education is empowering – it provides a way to learn your rights, and develop the knowledge and skill to stand up for those rights.

Members learn how other Locals deal with common jobsite issues – and share their experience about what worked and what didn't.

Please sign up for these courses and encourage others to take this training. You will be protected from loss of salary and expenses such as travel and family care. Check your Collective Agreement for the appropriate union leave.

Historically, union training was held on weekends, but some members expressed a desire for weekends off. As a result, PSAC tried to balance training schedules to meet this need, while recognizing that other members cannot take much time off work, or prefer that their employer not be aware they are enrolled in union training.

In light of these occasionally conflicting needs, PSAC scheduled courses on Friday and Saturday.

Longer courses include two week-day sessions, and both Saturday and Sunday training.

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The **Yukon Federation of Labour (YFL)** offers Collective Bargaining and Shop Steward training – check their website for a complete course list: [www.yukonfed.com](http://www.yukonfed.com). If you wish to enrol in YFL training, please apply through YEU to gain salary and expense recovery (YFL does not cover these expenses).

**To register** and learn about reimbursement of salary, travel expenses, or family care – call Nancy Debrececi or Barb Fayant at 667-2331 (Toll free: 1-888-YEU-2331), or e-mail [debrecn@psac.com](mailto:debrecn@psac.com), or [fayantb@psac.com](mailto:fayantb@psac.com).

## YEU yukon area council news



For the past seven months Premier Fentie has maintained he is not negotiating the sale of the Yukon Energy Corporation to ATCO. He also denied talks are taking place about selling managerial control of the publicly owned utility.

In spite of Mr. Fentie's denials, ATIPP requests by the Yukon News for documents relating to the Yukon-ATCO discussions have been refused by the government citing protection of the "negotiations carried on, by or for a public body or the government of Yukon". I certainly hope the Yukon News appeals the government's attempt to conceal the release of informa-

tion so obviously in the public interest.

With the June resignations of four Yukon Energy board members, who quit after learning of the secret discussions with ATCO, the jig was up. The stand taken by these Yukoners brought the Premier's actions to the attention of the public.

We have now learned that two separate proposals from ATCO regarding the privatization of the Yukon Energy Corporation exist, along with a seven page joint-position paper about the proposed sale.

Minister Brad Cathers resigned from the Yukon Party Caucus citing Fentie's bullying behaviour. "The premier lied to the public and the

MLAs about his involvement in discussions with ATCO, and about what was on the table", Mr. Cathers said. Hopefully other Yukon Party Caucus members will muster up the same courage displayed by Mr. Cathers, Mr. Phelps, Mr. Hakonson, Mr. Hunter and Mr. Allen. We agree completely with Mr. Cathers when he states, "I sure encourage them (Ministers) to join me in standing up to Premier Fentie by leaving the caucus ...".

The Premier has betrayed Yukoners. Mr. Fentie should, as Todd Hardy suggests, "be shown the door".

Julie Docherty  
President – Yukon Area Council  
Public Service Alliance of Canada

# YEU from the President



**It was with profound sadness that I learned of the passing of our dear friend Lucy Jackson.**

Lucy has been a fixture at YEU events for many years, offering wise council and down-to-earth input into union matters. She is truly irreplaceable, and will be missed by all. YEU offers her family our deepest condolences.

## **Watson Lake meetings**

On September 10-11, YEU 1st Vice-President Lorelee Kesler and Union Advisor Kathy Hanifan travelled to Watson Lake for meetings with our Locals there.

Lorelee and Kathy met first with the members of new Local Y029 – Watson Lake Municipal Workers for their start-up, discussing the services available to them, budget development and planning their first AGM. An interim executive was elected to carry on duties until that AGM.

The large size of the turnout is indicative of their commitment, and underlines the need for community representation. The response from the employer to various issues indicates that our work toward improving employment conditions will not be without challenges.

## **Scavenger Hunt! Monthly prizes!**

The PSAC Regional Health & Safety Committee is sponsoring monthly scavenger hunts to raise awareness of the committee's activities. Visit the YEU website to enter and maybe **WIN**.

A meeting was held the next day with members working at the Watson Lake Health Centre to address questions and ongoing concerns about the impending transfer to the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

Members continue to ask questions about the impact the transfer will have on their wages and positions. The members also sought and received assurances from the government about the security of their pensions and benefits.

We continue to monitor the situation to insure that the government does not renege on their commitments to our members.

## **Collective bargaining**

We are preparing for Bargaining Input Committee meetings for our Locals representing Yukon government employees.

It is too early to have a clear sense of what to expect from the employer. Nonetheless, we remain optimistic that a smooth negotiation process can be achieved.

## **Yukon Energy Corporation**

YEU continued its public information campaign with the distribution of brochures to every Yukon household.

We consider the government's willingness to take part in backroom discussions about potential privatization of services and infrastructure to be a most disturbing trend.

Privatization threatens jobs and services under the guise of efficiency and cost savings. We will continue to take a stand in opposition to privatization in any form.

## **Local Officers Advanced Training**

# **LOAT Course**

This 4 day residential course is open to Local officers and stewards. Participants learn to work together as a team to administer Local business and organize the members.

### **Topics include:**

- the role of the executive
- committees
- meetings
- organizing a stewards network
- communications.

### **Participants will also learn about:**

- union-management consultation
- political action as a union problem-solving tool
- collective bargaining.

## **Course Admin. / Who Can Attend**

### **Applicants must:**

- Have PSAC membership for at least one year
- Have completed Building Union Solidarity (BUS) or Talking Union Basics (TUB) or equivalent
- Not have taken another PSAC residential course within the 6 months prior to this course.

## **How to Apply**

### **Submit a PSAC In-Residence Course application to:**

Public Service Alliance of Canada  
100-2285 2nd Avenue  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1C9  
or FAX 633-5347

*The essay is required; the application must be signed by yourself and your Local president or designate.*

## **Dates & Location**

### **October 1-4, 2009 inclusive**

YEU Training Room  
100-2285 2nd Avenue, Whitehorse

## **Expenses**

The Alliance will reimburse participants for loss of wages, transportation, meals and incidentals. Family care expenses will also be reimbursed. Check with your PSAC Regional Office for details.

For more information call Nancy, Jim, Sue or Barb at **667-2331**.

PSAC encourages equity group members to apply. Please advise of any special needs in advance, so arrangements can be made.

## Labour Day foreshadows active winter

*continued from Page 1*

Yet, even if the work to save existing energy infrastructure is successful, the danger exists that privatization of utilities may be introduced through the back door by the unregulated growth of Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Discussions about potential Yukon IPP projects have been ongoing for years. The off-loading new power production to private companies has even been identified as a top policy priority by the Fentie government.

The *Energy Strategy for the Yukon* published in January, 2009, specifically identifies the high priority placed on the introduction of IPPs

into the territory. The energy strategy states that, "The first policy action is to facilitate purchase of electricity from independent power producers. This involves developing a new policy that would enable private companies to generate electricity and sell it to utility companies or electricity consumers."

IPPs often come gift-wrapped in packaging that claims they are "small", "green" and "less expensive". Some of these claims may sometimes be true, but routinely they are unregulated enterprises operated by large corporations. In these cases they are large, expensive and anything but environmentally friendly.

As in the ATCO sale, profits earned would not be contributed to the territorial treasury, nor be used to ensure consistent and quality service. Profits would accrue to corporate directors.

### Yukon Area Council Meeting Schedule - 2009

#### Annual General Meeting

YEUC training room, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

- October 27, 2009

#### Regular General Meeting

YEUC training room, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

- December 15, 2009

## YEUCALNDAR

### YEUC Monthly Executive Meeting

2nd Thurs., 6:30-9:00 p.m., YEUC Hall

### Local Y010 Monthly Meeting

2nd Wed., 5:00-7:00 p.m., YEUC Hall

### Local Y017 Monthly Meeting

4th Wed., 7:30 p.m., YEUC Hall

### Local Y023 Monthly Meeting

1st Thurs., Noon

### Local Y025 Monthly Meeting

3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m., YEUC Hall

### Local Y026 Monthly Meeting

3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Dawson City

### PSAC Yukon Area Council AGM

October 27th, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., YEUC Hall

### PSAC Regional Access Committee

3rd Thurs., 5:15 p.m., YEUC Hall

### Aboriginal Peoples Committee

1st Fri., Noon

### Racially Visible Committee

1st Wed., 5:00-7:00 p.m.

### PSAC Regional Women's Committee

1st Mon., Noon

### Pride Committee

2nd Tues., Noon

### PSAC Health & Safety Committee

1st Thurs., 5:00-7:00 p.m.



**YEUC News** is published by the Yukon Employees' Union.

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Toll Free: 1-888-YEUC-2331

email: [contacts@yeu.ca](mailto:contacts@yeu.ca); Web: [www.yeu.ca](http://www.yeu.ca)

#### Office Hours:

**Mon-Thurs** 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

**Fridays** 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Please notify YEUC about address and name changes. Call or fax Linda Bidrman - or email [lbidrman@yeu.ca](mailto:lbidrman@yeu.ca).**

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