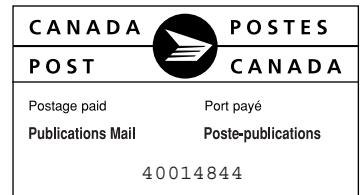


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Yukon Employees' Union  
2285-2nd Ave.  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
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Yukon Employees' Union

# NEWS

May 2011

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Special General Meetings
- Shop Stewards—there when you need them
- Fresh faces, refreshing ideas
- Golfers for literacy wanted
- Jean-François Des Lauriers' legacy of service

## YEU Locals will meet to select triennial convention delegates Special general meetings scheduled

Members from Locals across the Yukon are holding special general meetings to select delegates to YEU's Seventh Triennial Convention, which will be held in Whitehorse from October 28-30, 2011.

The election of accredited delegates to the convention is a fundamental step in the democratic process that gives voice to all YEU members. The delegates our members elect participate in the discussions, debates and voting processes at the convention.

They also serve as the decision-making body throughout the three-year term of the executive. Although delegates are not involved in the day-to-day operation of the union, they can be called upon to participate in special meetings or make governance or project-related decisions.

## Shop Stewards—there when you need them

Every so often a YEU member raises a concern that their workplace Shop Steward is unavailable, otherwise engaged, or unable to help with a particular issue.

Your union is committed to ensuring that every member has access to the advice and representation provided by Shop Steward. But it is also true that, in a special circumstance, a member might find it necessary to seek help from outside their own workplace.

Fortunately, the Yukon Employees' Union has a network of more than 200 shop stewards across the territory. All have

Each local is entitled to 2 delegates for up to 100 members or any portion thereof, and 1 more delegate for each additional 50 members or any portion of. An estimate of each

*The chance to serve as a delegate to the triennial convention occurs just once every three years. Step forward and make your voice heard.*

local's delegate entitlement has been forwarded to local executives. Final entitlements will be confirmed based on membership numbers as of July 4, 2011.

Each local also elects alternate delegates to attend the convention in the place of any accredited delegates who unavoidably cannot attend convention.

Members seeking direct input to the management, operation and priorities of their union are encouraged to step forward and be heard. Watch your union bulletin board for your opportunity to elect, or be elected a delegate.

been trained to answer questions and provide front-line assistance.

Therefore, YEU members have many available choices and representation options.

Any member who believes that their local Shop Steward is not in a position to offer the help needed can contact the union office in Whitehorse. Help is only a phone call away.

The union office can be reached by telephone any weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Members working outside of Whitehorse can call toll-free 1-888-YEU-2331.

# Component news

## Fresh faces, refreshing ideas

Your Union has just welcomed four new faces to our family—two executive members and two new employees.

Sharleen Patterson now works for YEU as our third Union Advisor. Conrad Gryba joins our staff for the summer as a researcher. The Executive welcomes two new members: Serge Lamarche and Becky Nash. Profiles of each are presented below.



Sharleen Patterson,  
Union Advisor

YEU is delighted to have **Sharleen Patterson** join our office staff. The Union now has three permanent full-time Union Advisors to provide representation and advice to our members.

Prior to coming to work with YEU, she held a National Officer position with PSAC as Equal Opportunities-GLBT female representative. She also held a number of positions for Local Y017, and has worked as a member of the YEU Pride Committee, the Regional Women's Committee and Yukon Area Council. Sharleen also served on the YEU Executive as Equal Opportunities Director.

**Conrad Gryba** joined YEU for the summer. He is continuing work done in the previous three years by STEP students Conal Slobodin and Aislinn Cornett.



Conrad Gryba,  
Student Researcher

His assignment is to prepare background information about the history of YEU, its forerunner, the Yukon Government Employees Union, the Yukon Territory Public Service Alliance and PSAC. The end result will take the form of a documentary film and written history.

Conrad is a second-year philosophy and political science student at the University of British Columbia. He hopes to gain experience in project and film production management, while learning about the history and inner-workings of PSAC/YEU, and trade unions in general. His experience at YEU will supplement his education in political science and philosophy. He is also keen to speak with past union members to gain a greater appreciation of the Yukon we live in now.

A born and raised Yukoner, Conrad is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys biking, canoeing, camping, and various other activities. He loves travelling, and has lived abroad in a number of countries all across the world.

**Serge Lamarche** is the current President of KVA Local Y018 in Dawson City. He has served in various capacities with the Local for several years.

Serge brings an additional rural perspective to the Executive.

**Becky Nash** is a Medical Laboratory Technologist employed at the Whitehorse General Hospital since February 1995, and is a member of Local Y025. She has been active in YEU for many years, starting as a Shop Steward and strike captain in 1997.

Becky has also been active in every round of collective bargaining with WGH. She held the position of Chief Shop Steward for WGH Local Y030 under the National Health and Welfare Component, and lobbied for the inclusion of the WGH Local into the Yukon Employees' Union Component. Once WGH Local Y025 was born, Becky served as Secretary.

Becky has been on the WGH Pension Committee since January 1999, first as an alternate, and now as the PSAC Representative on the committee.



Serge Lamarche  
YEU Director

## YFL Youth Summer Camp

The Yukon Federation of Labour's 4th annual summer camp will be held June 26 to July 1, 2011, at Braeburn Lake. Children of affiliated union members are welcome to attend. This year's theme is **Personal Safety ... Keeping Me Safe!**

Campers enjoy an array of fun activities—swimming, canoeing, aikido, first aid, music and arts & crafts, while learning how to stay safe in a variety of settings.

A certified First Aider is on site at all times.

The YFL Youth Summer Camp is for children aged 9-13 years. The cost is \$125 per child. Register by calling YFL at 667-6676, or email [yfl@yukonfed.com](mailto:yfl@yukonfed.com).



# President's message

As always, it's been a busy spring as Locals across the territory begin the process of electing delegates to the October triennial convention.

This year has already brought many changes to YEU, with new staff and executive members on board. We profile four of them in this issue.

The 2011 Triennial Convention will also bring new Union leadership. In recognition of the changing face of your Union, we've introduced a new design for our newsletter—with colour and brightness to reflect our optimism about the future.

## PSAC North Convention

Our plans for the PSAC North Convention are complete. This year 77 YEU delegates will fly north to Iqaluit the weekend of June 17. The charter aircraft will stop in Yellowknife where an additional 70 delegates from the NWT will board. More than 200 delegates and guests will attend, making the 2011 convention the largest ever.

The event will be the last for Regional Executive Vice President Jean-François Des Lauriers, who has done a tremendous job representing the north for the last 14 years. Throughout his tenure, he remained true to his belief in doing what was right regardless of the difficulty. Jean-François is a friend to many, and a friend of mine.

I am pleased that another YEU member, Julie Docherty, has stepped forward to seek the position Jean-François filled so admirably. I wish Julie success in her campaign.

## CLC Convention

Vice-President Loralee Kesler and I were in Vancouver for the Canadian Labour Congress Convention from June 9 to 13. With 2,018 delegates in attendance, the atmosphere was invigorating. Three newsletters from the convention are available for our member's review on the YEU website.

## Union Counselling Program

YEU has postponed the Union Counselling Program training until late September. While there was significant interest expressed by members when the program was discussed at the CLC Winter School this year, the limited number of training program applicants forced a delay.

I expect that springtime and attendant family commitments interfered with the June scheduling of the course. Hopefully

a September course availability will generate a better response.

## Yukon Election

I encourage all our members to become actively involved in the fall territorial election. There are many issues for Yukon workers that need to be at the forefront of election debates. Candidates should be challenged for their positions on a number of worker-related matters, among them the need for whistle-blower legislation.

Sadly, one news organization misrepresented the danger that workers face if they violate their employment agreement's confidentiality requirements, particularly those employed by government. The only viable mechanism that will allow workers to speak out about an employer's malfeasance or misbehaviour is the protection offered by strong whistle-blower legislation.

## Golfers for literacy needed

The 2011 PGI Golf Tournament for literacy takes place on Saturday, June 11, at Mountain View Golf Course.

Once again this year, the Yukon Employees' Union has donated \$1000 to help advance literacy in the territory. This contribution entitles the Union to enter a four player team in the event, and to attend the awards luncheon that takes place after the completion of play. Three positions on the four member team are still available to members of the Yukon Employees' Union.

Any YEU member in good standing is eligible to play. This is a fun event with team, rather than individual scoring. So, golfing experience is not required.

The PGI Golf Tournament for literacy is sponsored by Yukon Learn. It is that organization's premier fundraising event. The union's support and participation in this tournament helps continue famous Canadian broadcaster Peter Gzowski's legacy to raise funds for adults with literacy and learning difficulties.

Over 80 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to literacy programming. We encourage our members to take part in this event, and help Yukon Learn continue their work toward improving adult literacy in the territory.

YEU members who wish to take part as Union team members should submit their name to the Yukon Employees' Union office by June 7. A list of potential players will be compiled and names will be drawn at random to complete the team.

# Changes

## A legacy of service

Jean-François Des Lauriers will be retiring as Regional Executive Vice-President of PSAC North (REVP) following the convention in Iqaluit the weekend of June 17.

‘JF’ has represented the North through the Public Service Alliance of Canada for the past 14 years. He was the first person to serve in this position after PSAC adopted a regionalized model, and created the position as it exists today.

The regional service-delivery model increased the visibility of the REVP, and offered northern PSAC members improved access to their representative.

The demands of JF’s position carried a significant personal cost. The vice-president for the North represents members in Nunavut, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Constant travel is required due to the enormous geographical region of responsibility.

Jean-François’ energy, drive and commitment allowed him to successfully maintain communications, provide effective

advocacy and advance the needs of northern workers. But even with his many skills, he could not have had the same success without the support of family, particularly his wife Sylvie Leonard (a former YEU member).

JF forged through controversy, making the difficult though not always popular decisions demanded by a leader. In so doing he became an role-model for activists across the North.

His many notable career accomplishments include his work promoting equal pay for work of equal value, and securing a collective agreement for the workers at the BHP Billiton mine. That agreement—the first union contract at a Canadian diamond mine—ended a

prolonged strike. JF also took a leadership role in advancing the rights of First Nations workers, and encouraged PSAC to extend translation services to include many aboriginal languages.

It has been our great good fortune to have Jean-François Des Lauriers (a Yukon Employees’ Union member) fill this important role for so many years.



Jean-François Des Lauriers

## Meetings & Events

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

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

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

**Local Y023 Monthly Meeting**  
1st Thurs., Noon

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

**Local 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

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**Office Hours**—Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. YEU News © 2011 Yukon Employees’ Union