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Yukon Employees' Union  
2285-2nd Ave.  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
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**Breaking new trail for workers' rights & social justice.**  
March 2015

# Yukon Employees' Union **NEWS**



## Collective Bargaining.... a right worth organizing for!

It is almost that time again. If you work for the Government of Yukon, your contract is set to be renegotiated. That means YOU have the opportunity to help craft your next agreement.

YOU can help determine the priorities of your bargaining team. Not only that, you have the privilege of selecting those YG employees you feel will best represent your interests at the table. Democracy!

The determined workers who formed this union in 1965 did so in the face of genuine obstacles to collective bargaining. The value of that right, so hard won, shouldn't be underestimated.

But if you want your contract to reflect your wishes you have to speak up. Is there something that has driven you crazy about your collective agreement? Is there a clause you feel is flawed, lacking clarity or even missing entirely? Submit it!

**YTPSA NEWS # 7**

Collective Bargaining in the Public Service is a hard won right.

Unlike workers in the private sector, we are prohibited by law, the right to negotiate such basic conditions as job security, pensions, hiring of casual labour, classification systems and promotions. Now Mr. Pearson wants to deny us the right to negotiate wages.

The Public Service Staff Relations Ordinance directs both parties to bargain in good faith. We have tried to do so. But Mr. Pearson has arbitrarily set a rate and told us that if we do not sign a contract at that rate he will refer the matter to the legislature for resolution.

Labour-Management relations in the Public Service should be a model for private employers. The government's recent actions in threatening "Contracting Out" and their demand that we accept a 10% increase or they will legislate it are signs that this government does not believe in free collective bargaining.

By confusing its roles as an employer and as a government, the regime of Mr. Pearson has displayed a cynical opportunism that is wholly responsible for the present situation.

Government, as an employer, must provide the kind of management, the kind of work environment, the kind of collective agreement that combine to give public employees - JUSTICE.

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Submit a Bargaining Input form that clearly spells out the changes you want to see in the next agreement. If it's something you and your co-workers have talked about, make sure to have them add their signatures to your submission. The more members sign a proposal the greater the chance it will make it to the bargaining table.

You have time to think about what you want to write. We'll open Bargaining Input early in April. YEU members employed by the Government of Yukon can expect a special issue newsletter in their mailbox at the start of May. This mailing will explain all the steps of the negotiation process including selection of your pre-bargaining committee and the Main Table Bargaining Team. All forms will be in the special mailing.

Get involved in the Bargaining process... stay involved from the bargaining input stage right through contract ratification. The best thing about being in a union is that your working conditions come about through your own participation.



# \*Six things YOU need to know about Bill C-51



YEU President  
Steve Geick

At over 60 pages, Bill C-51 -- the Anti-Terrorism Act -- is a heavy read. The bill proposes radical changes to Canadian law and national security apparatus which seriously jeopardize the rights and freedoms of Canadians while promising little improvement to public safety.

Canada's privacy commissioner, ex-CSIS officials, former prime ministers and international whistleblower Edward Snowden have all raised alarm about the bill's impacts on Canadians'

freedom and privacy. Lawyers at the B.C. Civil Liberties Association have gone over the bill and have outlined the parts of this document that concern them most.

## 1. Bill C-51 drastically expands the definition of 'security.'

Bill C-51 defines security as not only safeguarding public safety, but also preventing interference with various aspects of public life or "the economic or financial stability of Canada." With this definition, a peaceful logging blockade by First Nations, or environmentalists obstructing a pipeline route could all be seen as threats to national security.

## 2. It gives the government too much discretion to pick and choose who to target for further scrutiny.

Bill C-51 gives the government the ability to designate an extraordinarily broad range of activities as potential security threats. Whether or not a group is deemed a national security threat may hinge on whether their cause is politically popular or in line with the views of the government.

## 3. It will severely chill freedom of expression.

It's unclear even to experts exactly what kinds of speech and protest activity may be considered threats to national security if the bill passes; the average Canadian has little hope of feeling confident that their legitimate political activity hasn't inadvertently crossed the line. Bill C-51's expansive language means many Canadians may choose not to express themselves -- even in completely legal ways -- rather than risk prosecution. Legitimate speech will be chilled, and our democracy will be worse off for it.

## 4. It will allow government institutions like Health Canada and the CRA to share information about you with the RCMP without a warrant.

Massive information sharing does not mean better security. This jeopardizes the privacy of the individuals whose information is being shared and may actually make it harder for investigators to detect real security threats: when looking for a needle in a haystack, it hardly helps to add more hay.



## 5. Bill C-51 proposes to worsen Canada's troubling regime of preventative arrest and detention.

The Criminal Code permits the police to arrest, detain and impose restrictions (such as a curfew or travel ban) on someone who has never been (and may never be) charged with a crime if they have good reasons to believe a terrorist activity will be carried out if these actions aren't taken. Bill C-51 would lower the threshold for these actions to situations where the police believe that a terrorist activity might be carried out. It also doubles the amount of time an individual can be detained without charge. Innocent people could be arrested and detained on mere suspicion of future dangerousness.

## 6. It would give CSIS the power to act like a police force, while still allowing it to operate secretly as an intelligence gathering service.

Bill C-51 would radically redefine the role of CSIS to include the ability to act on -- rather than merely to collect -- security intelligence. This ignores the lessons of history. The 1960's and 1970's saw serious rights abuses undertaken by the RCMP under its "security intelligence" mandate. CSIS was created in the 1980's for the express purpose of separating Canada's intelligence agency from its police force.

As an intelligence agency, CSIS is permitted to conduct much of its work in secret, and the details of most of its activities are never revealed publicly. But that's precisely why CSIS should not be permitted to also operate as a police force: this secrecy means that rights violations by CSIS are more difficult to detect -- and once detected, more difficult to remedy -- than if they were the result of actions undertaken by law enforcement agencies.

\*This article was written by BCCLA Lawyers Alyssa Stryker and Carmen Cheung and has been reprinted with permission from the Tyee. Read the article in its original version, entitled *Six Things Protestors Need to Know about Bill C-51* on the website [theyee.ca](http://theyee.ca)

## Bargaining Update: Hospital Corp, Yukon School Bus Drivers & Teegatha'Oh-Zheh

**Yukon Hospital Workers** Bargaining Team has been at the table for months, and talks have now broken down. Locals Y025 & Y032 held an extraordinarily well attended special meeting March 9th in Whitehorse.

The bargaining team needed to reaffirm their bargaining mandate from the Local and sought input to help them determine the priorities of the group. After discussion and an opportunity to vote on critical issues, a clear mandate was delivered to the team. The number one priority of the group is protection of their pension plan. Members share the pension plan contributions equally with management; they want certainty that their current plan remains protected and that they have an equal say in how the fund is managed in the future. Members also delivered a loud and clear message that they are not willing to entertain any concessions at the bargaining table. The bargaining team remains ready to meet with the hospital bargaining team to resolve the current impasse.

**Yukon School Bus Drivers Local Y039** held a special meeting March 12 to discuss the reluctance of their employer to meet and bargain a first Collective Agreement. There will be a follow up meeting March 30th at 6:30 pm at the YEU Hall to discuss next steps. All members should plan to attend this meeting.

**Teegatha 'Oh Zheh Local Y040** bargaining team has been preparing for their first bargaining sessions with the employer. They plan to work closely with the membership to establish bargaining priorities and to provide feedback for the team. They expect to be in position to begin bargaining soon after members provide this feedback.

This is the work that goes on year round at YEU/PSAC. We work closely with members throughout the life of each contract, always striving to provide an agreement that serves the needs of members and employers. A solid contract provides certainty, allowing workers to focus their energies on providing top quality services to our communities.

## Shop Steward Conference March 2015

I'd like to thank all those Stewards and Stewards-to-be who joined our 2015 Shop Steward Conference – you made it a great success! It was rejuvenating to see 41 YEU and PSAC federal members from many workplaces and communities working together. New alliances and friendships were formed between members and their union and commitments were made.

Participants were engaged, asked great questions and networked with other members. In the past few months YEU asked and received feedback from stewards about what training they wanted and we responded by offering workshops they requested.

I will be following up with Conference participants seeking information on how we can continue to offer training and resources to support you. I will be asking the question "What do you need from us?" and letting stewards know "What we need from you." We will work together to strengthen the steward network.

If you weren't able to attend the conference but are a Shop Steward or are interested in *becoming* a Shop Steward, please contact your Local President or YEU to start the process. Being a Shop Steward is one of the most rewarding things I've done. Standing up for someone when they've been wronged is very rewarding and is the right thing to do. Stewards empower members by supporting them in standing up for their rights.

**Please mark our Shop Steward Roundtables in your Calendars as a recurring meeting - they are offered on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (9am-12noon). Check out our website [www.yeu.ca](http://www.yeu.ca) and register today!**

In Solidarity, Sue Christianson, YEU Vice-President

## Meetings & Events

**Y010 Monthly Meeting:** 2nd Tues., 5:30-7:30 p.m., Westmark

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

**Y023 Monthly Meeting:** 1st Mon., Noon, City Municipal Svcs Bldg

### Staff

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**Shop Steward Round Tables:** 3rd Wed, 9am - noon, YEU

**Y026 Monthly Meeting:** 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Dawson City

**YEU Monthly Exec Meeting:** 2nd Thurs., 6:30-9:00 pm, YEU Hall

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**Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm.**

