

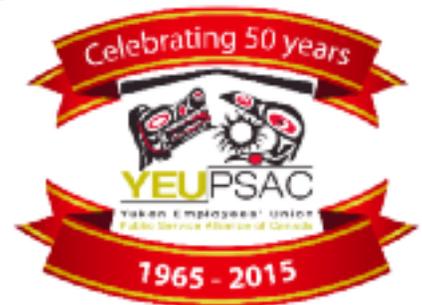
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

Yukon Employees' Union
2285-2nd Ave.
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 1C9



Breaking new trail for workers' rights & social justice.
February 2015

Yukon Employees' Union **NEWS**



More YEU History from the vault: 50 years strong!

We've been spending time lately going through old files, photos and newspaper clippings. We've been reading early YTPSA newsletters to gain a better understanding of the work those first keen organizers did to launch YEU.

There were no easy wins; there were struggles for fair pay, struggles for equity and respect, even struggles for the basic right to negotiate their rate of pay with the employer.

The Union, first YTPSA then YEU/PSAC struggled with internal growing pains and even battled a raid attempt by the powerful Teamster's union.

They say nothing worth having comes easy and they're right. Union solidarity in Yukon has never been imposed; YEU was Yukon made, Yukon born. Those early activists paved the way for the benefits we take for granted today.

If you want to learn more about our history, even be part of the anniversary planning committee, let us know. We'll share all we know. If you have stories of where we came from please...SHARE! Stay tuned for more from the vault.



Call your UNION... it's really OKAY!

We often hear fear in peoples' voices when they phone the union hall for the first time. There's a hushed voice at the other end of the line, reluctant to make the call, afraid of negative repercussions. We ask for a name and there's a pause... a beat while the caller considers whether it's safe to give their real name. We are accustomed to getting just a first name.

When we ask for details about the problem, we have to be patient. Sometimes the story comes out in tiny, vague pieces. Afraid of giving too much away, details are disguised and identities are masked. While we may get to the real story and names eventually, it requires careful listening and a lot of reassurance. There is fear that by calling your union you have set in motion something you can't control.



Here are a few things you need to know.

1. **You are allowed to talk to your union!**
2. Your information is confidential.
3. We will never, not ever, contact your employer without your permission.
4. If you have a meeting with a Shop Steward, they are bound by the same rules of confidentiality that we are at the Union Hall. They are trained, knowledgeable and discreet.
5. Sometimes the problem you are experiencing at work is not grievable; that's a fact. Your union rep will help determine whether or not there are grounds for a grievance. If there are, the decision to proceed is yours.
6. If, after discussion with your union rep you choose to file a grievance, the process will be explained to you fully before any action is taken. You need to be comfortable with the way things progress. No grievance will be filed on your behalf without your consent & participation.
7. If you choose NOT to file a grievance or proceed with any action, that's okay too. Sometimes all you need is someone objective to help you see things more clearly.
8. If you are called to a discipline meeting with your employer, you have a right to union representation. Call us as soon as you are told of a meeting and we will make sure you don't go into it alone.

Your Collective Agreement is a big document. It may seem daunting but it's worth a read. If you don't know who to call, then please call us. We're here to help. You can call us at (867) 667-2331. If you live in the communities, call us toll-free at 1-888-YEU-2331 (1-888-938-2331).

I have to change my address with YEU AGAIN?!

Have you recently moved, gotten married or divorced, changed your name or gender? Did you know that Canada's privacy laws do not allow your employer to pass on any updates to your info? If you are receiving union newsletters at an old address, please make sure you call us or email the change of info ASAP. We'll do our best to get it changed for you right away.

Oh dear. You HAVE contacted us to make the change and you're STILL getting mail where you shouldn't? We're sorry! YEU has undergone a database change in the last year. While it is an improvement in how we manage your information and maintain case records, it's been a steep learning curve. Rest assured that our database is very secure but we'll be honest... there have been a few bumps in the road as we implement the new system.

Some of you have called us already (sometimes more than once, gulp!) to change your info. We genuinely apologize if the change didn't "take" at our end! Please take a few minutes & give us another chance to make it right.

There are several ways we stay in touch with our members. There's the monthly hard copy newsletter, our website, a blog and an active Facebook page. We encourage you to sign up for the blog; you'll receive emails when a new post goes up. The blog often has articles that are not featured in our newsletter as well as information shared from around the web.

If you don't like receiving your newsletter in hard copy we can sign you up for an electronic mailing list that will forward a link to the online version instead. Thanks for your patience as we work out the kinks with our new system. Ah, technology!

Training Training and more Training... you asked for it!



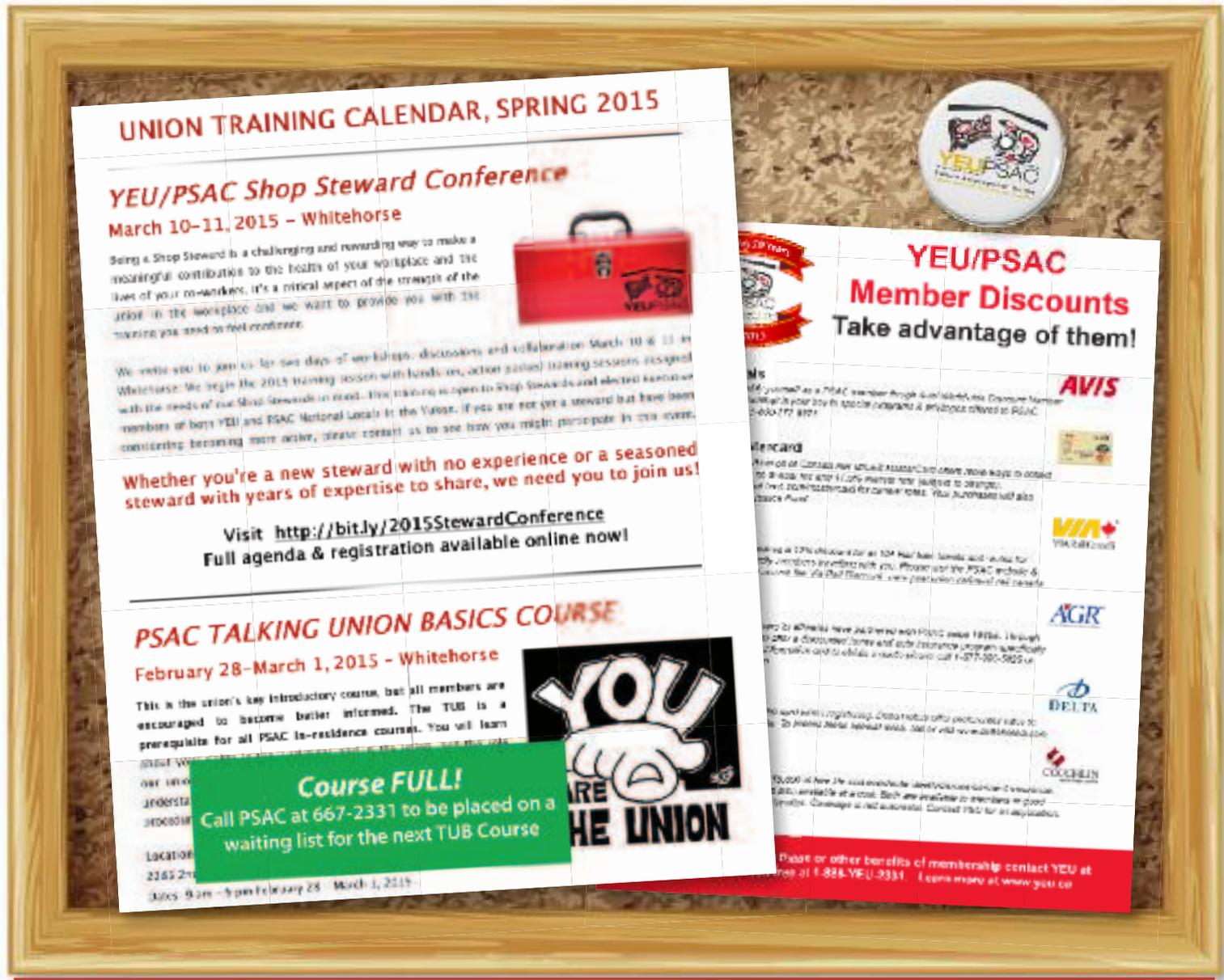
**YEU President
Steve Geick**

Last October at Convention we made a promise to strengthen our Shop Steward network. Members like you have told us it can be tough to find a union rep when you need one.

We have a lot of Stewards on our roster, but many aren't active. We have seen our list of fully trained & active Stewards shrink over the last few years as committed activists retire out, burn out or move on. Our own staff sometimes struggle to find a Shop Steward who has time to attend another meeting. Those Stewards who have stayed active find themselves stretched, since we have to call on them more than we would like.

Take a look below at the training we have planned. There's more available to you through courses offered by the YFL (coming soon!) & the Public Service Commission. Take advantage of communications training, conflict resolution & other courses offered by YG; all these skills are useful in your personal life, career and union activity.

Not a Shop Steward? Think about it. It's how I started my union involvement. Being a Steward doesn't mean you have to be a desk-pounding rabble rouser. Nobody's going to paint a target on your back for stepping forward. Your job as a Steward is to be a resource, a liaison and a support for the people you work with. It's rewarding. If you've already said yes, we are ready to help move you forward to full participation. Come on... don't be scared... we have coffee!



UNION TRAINING CALENDAR, SPRING 2015

YEU/PSAC Shop Steward Conference

March 10-11, 2015 - Whitehorse

Being a Shop Steward is a challenging and rewarding way to make a meaningful contribution to the health of your workplace and the lives of your co-workers. It's a critical aspect of the strength of the union in the workplace and we want to provide you with the training you need to be confident.



We invite you to join us for two days of workshops, discussions and collaboration March 10 & 11 in Whitehorse. We begin the 2015 training season with hands-on, action-packed training sessions designed with the needs of our Shop Stewards in mind. The training is open to Shop Stewards and elected executive members of both YEU and PSAC National Locals in the Yukon. If you are not yet a steward but have been considering becoming more active, please contact us to see how you might participate in this event.

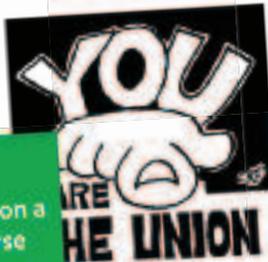
Whether you're a new steward with no experience or a seasoned steward with years of expertise to share, we need you to join us!

Visit <http://bit.ly/2015StewardConference>
Full agenda & registration available online now!

PSAC TALKING UNION BASICS COURSE

February 28-March 1, 2015 - Whitehorse

This is the union's key introductory course, but all members are encouraged to become better informed. The TUB is a prerequisite for all PSAC in-residence courses. You will learn



Course FULL!
Call PSAC at 667-2331 to be placed on a waiting list for the next TUB Course

Dates: 9 am - 5 pm February 28 - March 1, 2015

YEU/PSAC Member Discounts

Take advantage of them!



These and other benefits of membership contact YEU at 667-2331 or visit www.yeu.ca

Tony Thomas...coming soon to a community near YOU!

My name is Tony Thomas, and I'm YEU's Vice President - Communities. At our Convention in October, delegates decided the 2nd Vice-President position needed to become a full time, paid position to allow the elected VP to spend more time working for members in the communities.

I was honored to be re-elected to that position and take on the job of full time VP, Communities.

My first union experience was at 18 yrs old. I was working for a farm implement factory in Winnipeg. The union was very prominent in the work place and I saw up close first-hand what a union does for its members. I first ran for office as a Chief Shop Steward 10 years ago when we formed our Klondike Local in Dawson and prior to that I was a Shop Steward in my workplace.

Being in a union helps provide protection from harassment and discrimination; it offers a safe voice. Members can speak up about health and safety problems without fear of discipline or losing their jobs. Having a grievance procedure with time limits in place and representation every step of the way all helps; so does having the security of a binding contract and a clear set of rules.

Unions have a strong social justice component, always giving back to their communities and to those in need. Whether we support a cause, an individual, an organization, or even a country in times of disasters, this social outreach and activism makes me a proud unionist.

In my new job I hope to bring greater representation outside of Whitehorse. We can do this by establishing or strengthening locals in the communities where we have members. I hope

to bring awareness and trust in the Union back into communities by showing that YEU cares about local concerns and issues. I hope that by getting to the communities more frequently than we have in the past we can continue to strengthen our union.

Union solidarity helps protect members when there is a lot at stake. I witnessed impressive workplace mobilization during our last round of YG Bargaining. Management wanted to change hours of work for some shift workers. The members held daily meetings at the union hall to inform their fellow workers of what the changes would mean and what had to be done. The members were successful and management finally backed down. That is something those workers can be proud of.

I've been a Yukoner for over 30 years and I am the proud father of one daughter. My pleasures are traveling, and playing hockey and other sports. I hope I have the chance to get to know many of you over the next three years as I travel the Yukon. If you hear I'm in town, come and say hi. I'm looking forward to meeting you.



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

Christie Harper, Union Advisor; charper@yeu.ca

Susan Koser, Union Advisor; skoser@yeu.ca

Sharleen Patterson, Union Advisor; spatterson@yeu.ca

Beckie Huston, Intake Advisor; bhuston@yeu.ca

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

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

Tammy Olsen, Financial Officer; tolsen@yeu.ca

Deborah Turner-Davis, Media Relations & Strategic Communications Officer; dtturner-davis@yeu.ca

Josh Cuppage, Executive Assistant; contact@yeu.ca

Laura Hureau, Executive Director; lhureau@yeu.ca

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Visit www.yeu.ca, follow us on Facebook & Twitter or visit our blog; www.theunionbillboard.com

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