

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

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



Breaking new trail for workers' rights & social justice.

January 2015

Yukon Employees' Union **NEWS**



YEU - Contributing to our Community for 50 years



FIRST YUKON AGREEMENT — History is made in Whitehorse as P.S.A.C. President Claude Edwards signs the first collective agreement on behalf of employees of the Yukon Territories government. Watching the signing are left to right John McPhail, Richard Strong, Ros Miskolczi, YTPSA President; Joey Wallden, Ken Krockner, Pat Cumming, P.S.A.C. Executive Vice-President J. K. Wyllie and Brian Pritchard.

YEU has a busy and exciting year ahead as we celebrate our first 50 years! We will share some of the stories, the challenges and the victories as we explore the archives. If you have been an activist or a member for a long time, don't be shy... we would LOVE to hear from you. We'll be posting

some great photos and excerpts from meetings, news articles and more over the coming months. This news clipping shows history being made; this was the first of more than 120 contracts crafted by and for YEU/PSAC members across the territory. We're very proud of YEU!

Local Y010: Sharing a little Unity in the Communities



Each year at their AGM, YEU's largest Local, Y010 chooses where to donate any funds remaining in their budget. This year, they decided the funds would go to the Communities.

Local Y010's President Tammi Sikorski says "We had already made quite a few donations within Whitehorse over the year so we thought we would

look further. We contacted Beaver Creek, Ross River and Mayo; all three communities were excited to use the money for the children and for their Community Christmas parties. Beaver Creek Community Club sent this thank you letter and these great photos. Y010; Keeping the Unity in Community!



Hello Tammi and the entire Local Y010 Yukon Employees' Union:

A BIG heartfelt thank you from all of the families of Beaver Creek! With your generous donation towards our Community Christmas Party we were able to purchase 5 much needed skate trainers AND we were able to provide each child in the community (17 children) with a \$20 gift card to spend at Walmart.

With the opening of our skating rink, many of the children in the community had never been on skates. These skate trainers allowed the children to move around independently and get comfortable with the sport. Thank you!

The gift cards will come in great use for the children here in Beaver Creek. With the option of having a gift card, the children and youth can use the money as they wish to pick out something special for themselves (a real treat!).

Thank you very much for including Beaver Creek in your donations this year. Attached you will find some images of the party and what your donation purchased.

Johanna Duyan

Vice President of the Beaver Creek Community Club

YG launches Centralized Recruitment Pilot Project

The Yukon government has launched a pilot project designed to streamline recruiting for certain positions. The pilot project began on January 5, 2015 and will focus on administrative positions at the AR07 and AR09 levels.

These positions are advertised on the YG Employment website. Anyone who would like to learn more about the pilot project and how to apply for a Yukon government administrative position at this level can download the information sheet to learn more.

Visit <http://bit.ly/YGRecruitmentPilotProject2015>



PSAC Organizer, Negotiator & Uber-Staffer Nancy Debrecini was the victim of a little good natured pranking recently in the Whitehorse PSAC Regional Office.

Nancy is retiring after 26 years of service and there is NO way her friends & colleagues were going to let her sail off into the sunset without a party!

There was a lot of sneaking and shh-ing taking place at 2285 2nd Avenue but it turned out so well! Nancy was truly surprised and delighted to see so many people gathered to wish her well.

Great friendships have formed and we'll all be sad to see her go. Best wishes Nancy, we hope you enjoy your retirement!



**YEU President
Steve Geick**

First of all, a Happy New Year to all.

As most children do when growing up I considered my Father to be a very wise man and still do. One long standing pearl of wisdom was, “never talk about religion or politics”.

While I respect each individual's beliefs and ideals, I feel I must talk about politics, especially with an election looming.

Voting is our privilege and duty; we can't waste that right. The federal conservative party won their majority status in the last election with only 39% of the vote. Many - myself included, believe that is because *only 61% of eligible voters exercised their right to vote*. I respect your right to vote for the party you believe in and I will not tell anyone who to vote for. I cannot respect people who do not bother to vote but continually speak out about how a Government is destroying the country or territory.

“As a unionist, my views are shaped by the issues that matter most to me. I value access to public services for all Canadians. I value legislation that protects the rights of workers”

I hear every day that people are not happy with Harper's performance in these areas, so let's look at what has happened under his watch.

Harper has stopped funding the Health Council of Canada to save \$6 million, preferring to let the Provinces and Territories “experiment”. Many fear that this is the initial step in dismantling national health care as we know it.

Harper has made drastic cuts to public services. These cuts have led to major reductions to environmental protection, services for Veterans, food inspection, border protection and transport safety inspections. These cuts put our lives at risk and throw those who have fought and died for our rights under the proverbial bus. These cuts have come while Harper's spin doctors spend millions & millions on advertising to convince us of the great job they are doing.

Omnibus bills have hidden language dismantling the rights of workers and the organizations that represent them. Health and Safety protections, your basic right to organize and affiliate, your hope for a decent pension, sick leave and severance pay are but a few areas threatened and in some cases taken away.

I am also discouraged by the beating Canada has taken on the international stage; we are losing ground in every category from environmental protection to child welfare and poverty.

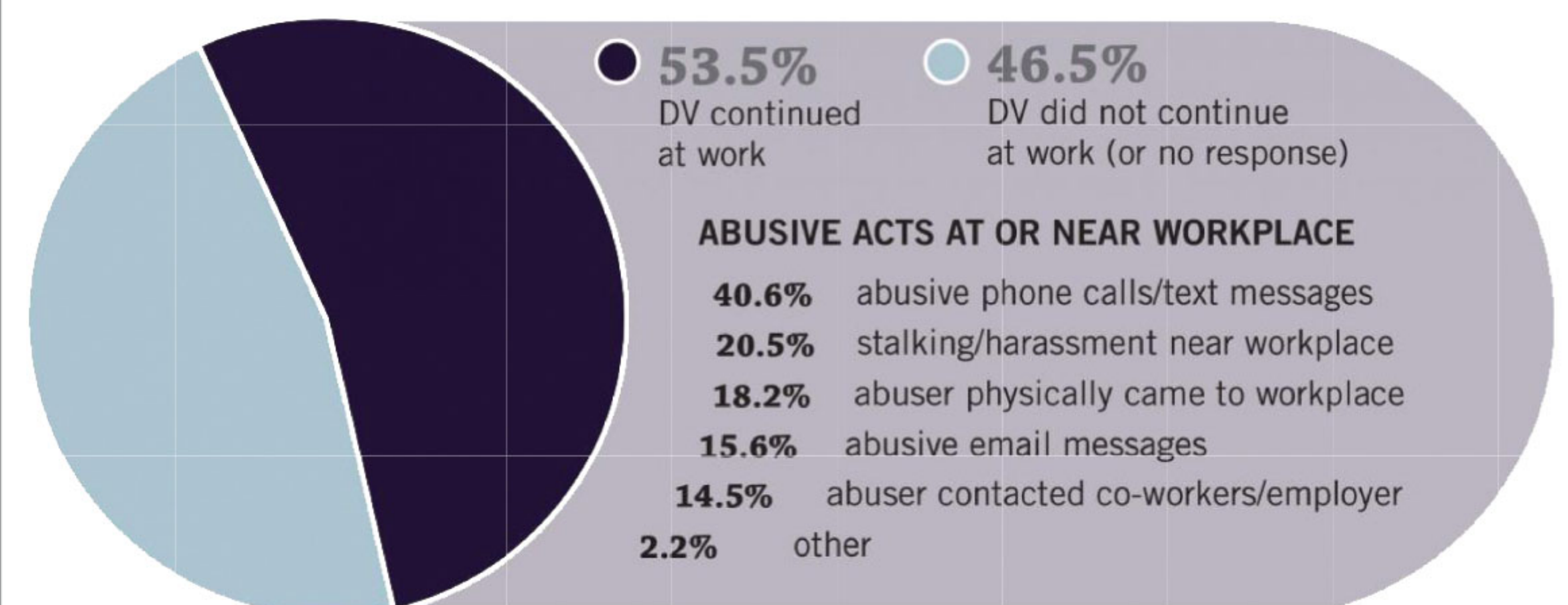
So here's the deal. I'm not going to tell you who to vote for but please - get off your couch and vote and please, PLEASE make it an informed vote. Ask questions- make sure that whoever you vote for is held accountable for their promises and actions.

As always I'd love to hear your comments: sgeick@yeu.ca

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve'.

Domestic Violence in the Workplace Canadian Labour Congress examines the issue:



The Canadian Labour Congress partnered with researchers at the University of Western Ontario and conducted the first ever Canadian survey on domestic violence in the workplace. We did this because there is almost no data on this issue in Canada and we know that women with a history of domestic violence have a more disrupted work history, are consequently on lower personal incomes, have had to change jobs more often, and more often work in casual and part time roles than women without violence experiences.

Being a perpetrator of domestic violence also significantly impacts a worker and their workplace. A recent study found that 53% of offenders felt their job performance was negatively impacted, 75% had a hard time concentrating on their work, and 19% reported causing or nearly causing workplace accidents due to their violent relationship. Their behaviours lead to a loss of paid and unpaid work time, a decrease in productivity, and safety hazards for their co-workers.

Read the whole report at:

<http://www.canadianlabour.ca/issues/domestic-violence-work#>

Susan Koser, New YEU Union Advisor

Susan Koser is likely a familiar face to many of our members. A Yukoner for 30 years, she has extensive family ties in the Territory and has raised two children here.

She brings 25 years of Yukon Government experience to her new role at YEU. She worked in Youth Justice for 14 years as a youth counsellor and has spent the last 11 years as a Human Resources Consultant.

Susan has experience in performance and disability management as well as labour relations. She also has a long history of union activism, first as a Shop Steward and as a member of her bargaining team,

We are very happy to have Susan's unique skill set and experience available to our members. She joins Sharleen Patterson and Christie Harper as Union Advisors; a full slate of advisors as we head into 2015.



Susan's decision to join the YEU staff was driven by a passion for fairness, respect and equity in the workplace and the advocacy nature of the work we do.

She looks forward to working with the membership.

Please join us in extending Susan a very warm welcome!

Whitehorse Training Calendar, Winter/Spring 2015

Shop Steward Training Conference *March 10-11 2015*

These two days will be packed full of great learning opportunities. This is the place to gain confidence. Not sure of your responsibilities or duties as a Steward? This conference will answer so many of your questions! You'll leave here feeling more certain of your role, more confident in your abilities and sure of how you contribute to improved member service.

Talking Union Basics *Feb 28, March 1*

This is the union's key introductory course, but all members are encouraged to become better informed. You will learn about your rights in the workplace and in the union, and the role our unions play in our communities. Develop your understanding of your collective agreement and the grievance procedure. A Union is only as strong as its members. Find out how you fit in!

*Call 667-2331 to Register or
email us at contact@yeu.ca.*

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; dturner-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.