

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

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



Breaking new trail for workers' rights & social justice.
October/November 2014

Yukon Employees' Union **NEWS**



YEU Convention Delegates head home after successful weekend



Canadian Labour Congress President Hassan Yussuff, the PSAC National President Robyn Benson & the PSAC Executive Vice-President Chris Aylward.

What a weekend! YEU Delegates met in Whitehorse in the beautiful Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre for three days of discussion, debate and democracy. The agenda was full and the visiting speakers provided a national perspective and an inspiring message to the assembly.

Hassan Yussuff, President of the Canadian Labour Congress began his

union career as an 18 year old on the factory floor, thrust into activism by older co-workers. They figured it was better to let the young guy get fired for being a unionist than themselves. Hassan took the role seriously though, and that early involvement sparked his interest, beginning a long and important career of union involvement. We were very honored to host Mr. Yussuff.

PSAC National President Robyn Benson offered her perspective on the important role unions play in a just society. She stressed the importance of engagement in the political process, reminding us all of the upcoming federal election and the record of the sitting government.

President Benson reminded us of the harm done to our Canadian way of life and standard of living under the Harper Government. Corporate interests are taking over, our reputation on the world stage is tarnished and the environmental concerns of Canadians have been ignored. Our country is changed under this regime, and our only hope of regaining control of

our nation is through the election of a government with different priorities. Robyn encouraged us all to VOTE and to do our best to help increase voter turnout in 2015.

Chris Aylward, Executive Vice-President of the PSAC addressed delegates at our banquet. Looking to the North for guidance, he said, has been the standard for hundreds of years and it continues today. He praised YEU for the work we have done in the community, specifically with our recent Food Bank challenge. He laughed, noting the traditional union response of a rally, a march and a demonstration would have accomplished far less than we were able to achieve here in August. Thanks to our members for stepping up to the challenge; we appear to be leading the way!

Elections were held for President, 1st & 2nd Vice-President and Directors to YEU's Executive. Also elected were two Executive members representing equity groups and youth. The assembly selected delegates to PSAC's National Convention in April 2015 as well.

Steve Geick was acclaimed as President for another three year term, Sue Christianson was elected as 1st Vice-President, & 2nd VP Tony Thomas has been re-elected. Congratulations!



YEU Executive Justin Lemphers, Maureen Stephens, Derek Yap, Tony Thomas, Richard Wagner, Amanda Buffalo, Tammi Sikorski, Teresa Acheson, Steve Geick, Jamie Webber, Becky Nash, Sue Christianson and Lisa Vollans. Thank you all for stepping forward!

YEU General Membership Dues Increase Notice, January 1

Convention Delegates approved the first YEU general dues increase since 2008*. This will affect all members of YEU. Dues will increase from 0.527% to 0.6023%. The chart below shows how the YEU dues increase will affect your paycheque:

Salary	\$ Montly dues @ old rate	\$ Monthly dues @ new rate	\$ Difference/cheque
\$25,000	\$8.78	\$10.04	\$0.63
\$40,000	\$17.57	\$20.08	\$1.26
\$50,000	\$21.96	\$25.10	\$1.57
\$65,000	\$28.55	\$32.62	\$2.04
\$80,000	\$35.13	\$40.15	\$2.51

*New rates will take effect January 1, 2015. The total combined dues rate will be 0.9668% (PSAC) + 0.6023% = **1.5691%** + \$1 per member/month for the PSAC Strike Fund. The *current* total combined dues rate is .9668% + .527% = **1.4938%** plus \$1/member per month for the strike fund. You will see PSAC Dues listed on your pay stub; that is a combined dues payment



**“LABOR UNIONS ARE THE LEADING FORCE FOR
DEMOCRATIZATION AND PROGRESS.”**

NOAM CHOMSKY



YEU President
Steve Geick

Well that was one helluva month and a half, wasn't it? The pace of activity in the Union Hall over the last six weeks has been intense to say the least.

Our staff have been flat out in preparation for our Triennial Convention, just completed in Whitehorse. Thanks to everyone involved, it was a very successful event and we are excited to begin the work of the next three years.

Our office will look a bit different with incoming 1st Vice-President Sue Christianson transitioning into the role long filled by Sister Lorelee Kesler. I have worked alongside Sister Kesler for many years now and have so much respect for her as a colleague and friend. Running an organization the size and scope of this union has been a team effort and Lorelee and I have made a very good team. Lorelee will remain on my speed dial; her experience and expertise will be called upon time and again as we move forward. Having said that, I'd like to welcome Sister Christianson... let's see what kind of trouble we can stir up, shall we Sue?

My good friend and colleague Tony Thomas has been re-elected to the position of 2nd Vice-President. The role of 2nd VP has long been intended as a service role to the communities. Our delegates this year put forward and passed a resolution enabling the 2nd Vice-President to fulfill this role more fully, establishing it as a full time paid position. In the past, the 2nd VP has maintained their substantive position while trying to accomplish the task of visiting each community and Local twice a year. That has proven to be nearly impossible. Greater resources and a dedicated schedule will help ensure the communities have full service from the Union.

For the first time since 2008, YEU delegates voted to increase membership dues. The increase will allow for the changes planned at Convention including the new 2nd VP role. For a breakdown on what that will mean to your bottom line as a member, please see the graphic on page 2 of this newsletter.

I want to extend a personal welcome to our newest members. The municipal workers from the Village of Haines Junction approached us in June, and have recently been certified by the Canadian Industrial Relations Board. We look forward to helping them create an equitable workplace through collective bargaining.

The Flight Attendants of Air North have achieved their first Collective Agreement, at great personal cost. These workers went out of their way to find a path to resolution with the least impact on the airline they love & their passengers. Their choice to withhold non-essential services was intended to get attention and move negotiations forward at last.

Their legal reduction in service was met with support from many, but not all. What they encountered from many of the very people they have served well and long was shocking. They encountered more knee-jerk rage and hysteria than logic can explain.

What amazes me still is that for many in the public, the idea that flight attendants took this action meant they were getting above themselves. That they were not worthy of the same kind of respect at work that the rest of us take for granted; all these opinions in absence of the facts.

This, my friends is exactly why unions still exist. Why should some workers have to accept substandard working conditions? Who gets to decide which work has greatest value? Do you have a right to a cheap seat sale? Are you comfortable flying for less on the back of your fellow worker? I'm not. I'm glad they have a solid contract... now we will watch Air North and see if they uphold their end of the deal.

This was not a pretty round of negotiations; we are not free to disclose everything that took place but believe me when I tell you these flight attendants were up against no small opposition from their employer. I am proud to have been in some small way, part of their process. I am ready to mobilize again on their behalf if they need our support.

Trolls trolls trolls... they don't all live under bridges in fairy tales. They move in shadow, assume fake names and make anonymous jabs online. They hijack issues, spout hate and then run and hide behind their computer screen and keyboard without owning their opinions. There's been lots posted online in response to the airline action; some of it against the flight attendants, some against YEU staff and plenty of it against me. All I've got to say is bring it. You've got something to say? Say it. My email is sgeick@yeu.ca & my cell is on our public website. I don't expect everyone to agree with what I do or say but that's what is good about a free society and a democracy. I'll respect you if you respect me. Fair? Fair.

Meanwhile, let's get back to work. Trust me... there's a lot of work to do and busy days ahead. We hope to see you; pop by the Union Hall and have a coffee. Cheers and thank you!



We are pleased to invite you to attend CLiFF 2014. YEU is proud to host this free national film festival for the 5th consecutive year, the festival's 6th anniversary. Our "movie night" will be Thursday November 20th, 7pm and we'll view the films in the Lucy Jackson Training Room at the YEU Hall.

The stories we will share are stories not often available to be heard or seen. We are thrilled to bring these valuable films to a wider audience and hope you will join us for an evening of short films and documentaries focusing on the work people do, all over the world. This year we will have a single screening room, allowing our guests to view all the films on offer.

Film list: Thursday November 20th, 7pm

- Farewell to Nova Scotia (13 mins)
- Joe Hill's Secret Canadian Hideout (8 mins)
- Judith: Portrait of a Street Vendor (17 mins)
- Luminaris (6 mins)
- Ngutu (4 mins)
- The Olympic's Disposable Workers (4 mins)
- Qatar's World Cup (17 mins)
- Stapled (5 mins)
- Welcome to Dresden (15 mins)
- A History of Labour in British Columbia (22 min)

For more info visit www.labourfilms.ca or the YEU Facebook event page: CLiFF v.6 Whitehorse



Meetings & Events

- Y010 Monthly Meeting:** 2nd Tues., 5:30-7:30 p.m., Westmark Whse.
- Y010 AGM:** Wed. November 19, 5:30 pm., YEU Hall
- Y017 Monthly Meeting:** 4th Wed., 7:30 p.m., YEU Hall
- CLiFF November 20th, 7pm @ YEU Hall**

- Y023 Monthly Meeting:** 1st Mon., Noon, City Municipal Services Bldg
- Y026 Monthly Meeting:** 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Dawson City
- YEU Monthly Exec Meeting:** 2nd Thurs., 6:30-9:00 pm, YEU Hall
- Free Family Fun Skate: Saturday Dec. 13, 12:30 - 2:30 @ CGC**

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Office Hours: —Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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