

YUKON FED NEWS

THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER



Picture Caption: CLC President Bea Bruske and YFL President Teresa Acheson marching in Montreal at the 2023 CLC National Convention.

From the President’s Desk Off and Running

----- TERESA ACHESON

I began this journey when I said yes to letting my name stand for President of the YFL at the Tri-annual convention in December 2022. Since then, it’s been an adventure and I feel there is already so much to share that we just can’t cover this in an evening meeting.

So that led me to the idea of offering a newsletter. There are so many useful resources, news, updates, webinars, articles, and conversations—that I hope to share these with you to spread the news.

I know that in my 20 years of labour activism, it was always a sigh of relief when you were able to connect with someone or something that would give you the information you were looking for when you needed it. There really is something to say for timely assistance.

I hope to continue with future newsletters and there are so many I want to thank for where we are today. But I will start with our most recent YFL leadership.

First, I want to thank Ron Rousseau, our past president for the Yukon Federation (YFL). Ron stepped in, giving very generously of his time and talent at a time when the federation could not fully compensate him for the value he added.

Ron also was very willing to lend an ear when I had questions and he stayed on until January to ensure a smooth transition. During that time, I was able to see firsthand his excellent people skills. He really is so considerate of others, showing the same care and respect whether you were a Premier, Commissioner or a distraught worker in an entry level job.

To everyone else who has served in the past on the YFL, thank you for building what we have today representing workers in the Yukon. I hope to honour your legacy and continue building a strong labour friendly future for our territory.

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----- TERESA ACHESON

It has been a busy first quarter for the Yukon Federation of Labour with events that have taken me across Canada and making new connections in the Yukon.

Investigation Training in Calgary, PSAC National Health & Safety Conference in Montreal, CLC Pacific Winter School in Harrison, BC; meetings with Yukon MLA’s, USW reps, Yukon United Way, WSCB; conversations with retired activities; visits to the picket lines and Conventions with PSAC members in Yukon, NWT and Nunavut; launching our Northern Health Care Campaign; Hosting the Day of Mourning; attending the CLC National Convention, Canadian Council meetings, and connecting with the other federations of labour.



Picture Caption: Teresa Acheson, President of the Yukon Federation of Labour

Join a [Virtual Q&A with the President](#) on Monday June 26, between 4:30 – 6:30pm YST.

YEU Community Laundry Night

Do your Laundry for FREE!
Family Hotel Laundromat 6pm-9pm
Tuesday June 13, Tuesday July 11,
Tuesday August 8.



Getting to the bottom of the laundry hamper is EXPENSIVE!
Yukon Employees' Union is happy to offer an evening of
FREE LAUNDRY at the Family Hotel Laundromat.

You bring your laundry hamper; we'll provide laundry tokens - even laundry soap and dryer
sheets if you need them. Enjoy a snack and let the kids enjoy a few quiet activities while
you take care of the washing.

Everyone is welcome.



Sponsored by Yukon Employee
Union. Refreshments provided
by Whitehorse United Church.



USW Organizers in Yukon

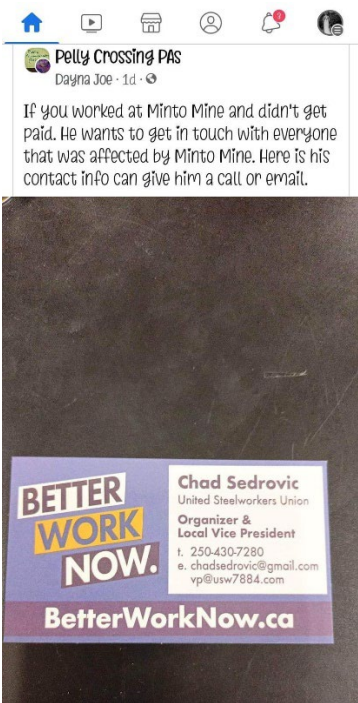
Spread the word to miners

----- TERESA ACHESON

USW reps have visited the Yukon a few times this year. Most recently USW organizers Chad Sedrovic and Mike Redman stopped in to ask what can be done for the workers who lost their jobs recently at Minto Mine.

Thanks to some great labour activists in the territory, the federation was able to provide key details about what could be done for those workers.

Its about getting good information of the hands of those who need it. Within days...this post was shared.



PSAC REVP Returns to USJE Local Y0118

Leading through pandemic recovery to strike.



Picture Caption:
Lorraine
Rousseau,
member of
USJE, living in
Carcross, Yukon

----- TERESA ACHESON

As I learn more about our labour movement in the Yukon, I feel it's important we pay tribute to those who have excelled in leadership, advocacy, and compassion for the workers—giving me and many others some great examples to follow.

Out of Carcross, Yukon, Lorraine Rousseau has been the PSAC Regional Executive Vice President for the North Region for the past 2 years.

During these 2 years, Lorraine navigated our largest union in the north through pandemic recovery and then right into the largest strike action across Canada, with many other campaigns and actions between.

Despite significant challenges, she always rose to the occasion and stayed focused on what mattered most for the workers and led the north region right up to the end of the convention.

I can remember a virtual “all women panel” of leaders, including Lorraine, that inspired me to step into this role.

The facts are:

- it is still difficult for women in leadership as we strive to address gender discrimination.
- Add to that a worldwide pandemic, strikes, lockouts, and labour actions,
- and all the workplace issues we face in the north every day...

Lorraine blazed a trail for others to follow. For now, we get to enjoy having her back in Yukon with USJE Local Y0118, Yukon RCMP.

June 21

National Indigenous
Peoples' Day

----- PSAC YIPC

The PSAC Yukon Indigenous Peoples' Committee is asking for assistance in having a Union presence at the celebration in Whitehorse Yukon.

YIPC is planning a DIY Red Dress Felt Pin table at KDCC on June 21st. MMIWG2S resources will be provided along with materials for members of the public to sit and make a red dress pin.

YIPC members are seeking allies to assist at the table from noon – 3pm. Assistance will be needed to facilitate the DYI red dress pin making while having conversations with the public and making the red dress felt pin.

You can volunteer by emailing Barb Fayant at fayantb@psac-afpc.com





Picture Caption: Team UNITE was acclaimed for another term at the CLC National Convention in Montreal, May 2023. L to R Siobhán Vipond, Bea Bruske, Larry Rousseau, and Lily Chang.

Canada’s Unions: Lifting Everyone Up

2,500 workers cathered from across the country in Montreal

----- TERESA ACHESON

This was my first CLC convention and how exciting it was to see the greater union movement gathering to bring progressive change to our workplaces and communities.

We were inspired by the calls to work together for a better future by Chris Smalls, the US labour leader who took on Amazon, and trade union leaders from Hong Kong and Haiti.

Team UNITE was re-elected for another term. They are honoured to continue serving Canada’s workers and to build on the work of the past two years.

Delegates delivered heartfelt speeches and powerful interventions from the convention floor to highlight issues impacting workers and strengthening resolutions. Action Plans were passed on affordability, Indigenous justice, climate crisis, care economy, building up Canada and organizing.



CALL FOR CLC Advisory Committees & Working Groups

Add the Yukon Voice

----- TERESA ACHESON

The CLC is now seeking nominations of representatives from affiliates and federations of labour to Advisory Committees and Working Groups for the 2023-2026 term.

Currently there are no Yukon Federation of Labour representatives on any of the CLC Committees.

I would like that to change. But I know this is asking “just one more thing’ from our labour activists in the territory, and I know that our numbers are much smaller than other federations.

However, I still believe that including a northern perspective is important in these committees and working groups.

The primary role of the committees is to provide advice to the Executive Officers and Canadian Council on issues referred to the committee by convention, council, or an officer. Committees may identify emerging issues that could require attention, the development of a policy or other responses.

Affiliate representatives represent the position of their union and should have authority to speak on behalf of the affiliate.

Contact yfl@yukonfed.com to nominate before June 30, 2023.

CLC Advisory Committees:

- Education
- Employment Insurance
- Environment
- Health & Safety
- Human Rights
- International
- National Political Action
- Pension
- Training & Technology
- Transportation
- Women
- Young Workers

CLC Working Groups:

- Indigenous Workers
- Disability Rights
- Solidarity and Pride
- Workers of Colour

CLC Ad Hoc Committees:

- Pay Equity*
- Employment Equity*
- Child Care
- Harassment and Violence

*For workers covered by federal legislation

FORWARD TOGETHER

THIS IS OUR MOMENT —

Get Involved In Community

Labour friendly societies, non-profits and politics

----- TERESA ACHESON

There are several labour friendly organizations that have strong ties to the labour movement or were started out of the labour movement. Over time, some of these organizations may have drifted apart, but that doesn't mean it's not important to keep the voice of workers and the labour movement present in these arenas.

The voice of labour does not always have to be you. Sometimes we see the same people (eg. A local president) that ends up taking a seat and being a voice for the workers on endless committees and boards. Here are some opportunities for any union member to get involved.

YUKON UNITED WAY

Historically, the United Way was created out of the labour movement to allow union workers to donate to a charitable organization that would be able to action labour focuses social action in communities. The Canadian Labour Congress is a key partner for United Way in Canada, and each federation of labour and labour councils across Canada work closely with the United Way agencies in each jurisdiction.

In 1988, a deeper relationship with the United Way and the Trade Union Movement was forged when the Canadian Labour Congress signed a partnership agreement with the United Way Canada. With the signing of this agreement, came a desire for greater participation by union members with established welfare agencies addressing social issues in Canada.

Yukon United Way needs a few labour activists in their organization. You can read more about them at their website unitedwayyukon.ca and sign up to volunteer online. But you can also reach out to the YFL and we would be happy to pass your name along.

Some opportunities:

- Member of the CEIC Committee, that meets annually to review applications for funding and determine how best to distribute funds in the Yukon.
- Event volunteer at annual hosted events for fundraising and awareness
- Campaign director to sign up major donors and share with workers and employees the option to sign up for automatic payroll deductions.
- Board member

If you are interested in getting involved with a labour friendly charity, please contact yfl@yukonfed.com so we can make an introduction.

Yukon united way
Gave \$105,000.00
To projects in
Yukon in
2023-2024

JOIN US AT FIREWEED MARKET ON THURSDAYS!

Drop by or sign up to volunteer on Thursdays at the Fireweed Market this summer at our "UNION" booth sponsored by YFL and YEU/Y010, or volunteer with NDP Yukon also at the market this summer.



 May 8, 2023

 Whitehorse, Yukon

 40+ people in attendance

Picture Caption: Stakeholders from the three northern territories were invited to attend a hybrid (in-person and virtual) dialogue session to share their perspectives on the future of Canada’s immigration system.

YFL Participates in Stakeholder consultation in Yukon On the future of Immigration for Canada’s Future

YFL was invited to participate in a [dialogue to include Yukon](#) perspective into the future of IRCC on May 8, 2023, in Whitehorse.

Donna-Marie Haughton attended as the YFL Equity rep, brining an important perspective for workers and diversity that seemed to be low in representation at this meeting.

Participants were placed in groups around tables for Q&A on specific topics, with feedback collected from each table.

IRCC (Immigration Refugee Citizen Canada) has since announced [new express entry categories for this year](#) including French-language proficiency, healthcare occupations, science, technology, engineering, and Math (STEM) occupations, transport and agricultural occupations.

YFL Executive Openings Seeking a Trustee and Secretary

The YFL Board has a vacancy in the position of Secretary that must be filled by the YFL Council. Please consider who can be nominated for this role.

The YFL is also seeking another Trustee, this person can be any affiliate member in good standing that is not on the YFL Council.

And we have a new face in the YFL office this summer, as Chrissie McDonald joins as our Administrative Summer Student from June – Sept 1st. If you are in the neighbourhood, drop-in and say hello, or make an appointment with us!



Thursdays, Shipyards Park In Whitehorse, Yukon

Come Find us at Fireweed Market!