

# YUKON FED NEWS

THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER



Picture Caption: YFL President & Union Affiliates meet with Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan and Yukon MP Brendan Hanley in Whitehorse, Yukon this month.

## From the President's Desk

### Labour & Unions Making Progress

----- TERESA ACHESON

It's been one year since I started full-time in this office, and I can already see things changing for workers in Yukon. We have successfully brought attention to the healthcare crisis with the launch of our Northern Health Care Matters campaign last summer.



If you have not already taken action to join the campaign, you can still get involved.

Late last year, Canada's Unions welcomed the tabling of Anti-Scab Legislation, (Bill C-58), which we continue to push for early adoption.

Link to statement [here](#).

Link to legislation [here](#).

More recently, workers welcome the [announcement of Universal Pharmacare](#) to be delivered as promised in the CASA agreement between Liberals and NDP in the House of Commons.

"We've witnessed a groundbreaking pharmacare deal between the Liberals and New Democrats, marking the most significant advancement in our healthcare system since the inception of public healthcare. This agreement will significantly improve healthcare accessibility and affordability across the country," said CLC President Bea Bruske in a recent statement.

Even in the Yukon, we are seeing progress. We have doubled our online subscribers. I participated in the Indigenous Lobby Day on October 3, 2023, held meetings with the Yukon NDP Caucus, Yukon MP Brendan Hanley, and Senator Pat Duncan, and recently hosted Minister of Labour & Seniors, Seamus O'Regan, at the YFL office to hear from 7 front line worker representatives from affiliate unions. And we welcomed two new affiliated locals!

### In This Issue

CLC Updates & Actions  
Coming Events  
Labour News  
YFL Updates & Actions

----- TERESA ACHESON

Our office receives a few calls each month from workers in Yukon who do not have union protection and find themselves in a situation saying, "This does not seem right". And in most cases, I agree. Employers are not treating them with respect, fairness, or dignity.

In a recent example, YG locals negotiated increases under a new collective agreement, including back pay for time already worked. Still, you had to be working on the date of the renewal.

A casual YG worker has been working for over 2 years, on back-to-back terms, working more regular hours and covering for co-workers and supervisors using their vacation, yet this worker is still not considered permanent. HR (in all their wisdom) gave the casual a 3-day break in service over the Renewal date. So even though the Yukon Government said they would extend the raise to casuals, they denied this dedicated worker because HR scheduled a weekend off. Public Service Commission would not reconsider.



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

Sadly, casual YG employees are not covered by the union and are [not even defined as "employees"](#) under the Yukon Public Service Labour Relations Act.





Picture Caption: 5 Actions you can take: complete [the CLC Education survey](#), Register or share the 2024 [Prairie School for Union Women](#), Take the 2024 [Labour Goals Quiz](#), nominate a [Volunteer of the Year](#), and volunteer or share the monthly [YEU Community Landry Night](#).

# YFL & IBEW Host 2-Day Shop Steward Course March 14-15

----- TERESA ACHESON      Register online at [yukonfed.com/events](http://yukonfed.com/events)



**IBEW LOCAL 1574**  
TOGETHER WITH YFL

**SHOP STEWARD TRAINING**  
2 DAY COURSE  
IN PERSON IN WHITEHORSE  
& VIRTUALLY ONLINE  
**MARCH 14 & 15, 2024**  
APPLICANTS MUST BE MEMBERS OF  
IBEW LOCAL 1574 OR  
YFL AFFILIATE UNION MEMBERS

REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[YUKONFED.COM/EVENTS](http://YUKONFED.COM/EVENTS)



**APPLY NOW...SEATS ARE LIMITED**

## Yukon Minimum Wage & Fair Wage Schedule ----- APRIL 1, 2024

As of April 1, 2024, the minimum wage in the Yukon will increase from \$16.77 per hour to \$17.59 per hour.

This increase follows the [Minimum Wage Order](#) which requires that minimum wage increase every April 1st, by the annual Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse for the preceding year. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics calculated the 2023 Consumer Price Index to be 4.9%.

The Fair Wage Schedule rates for people working on government-tendered construction contracts will also increase by 4.9% on April 1, 2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Employment Standards Office at [eso@yukon.ca](mailto:eso@yukon.ca) or (867) 667 – 5944 for more information.



Picture Caption: Calendar icon



**UNE SEN**  
The Union of National Employees  
Le Syndicat des employées et employés nationaux

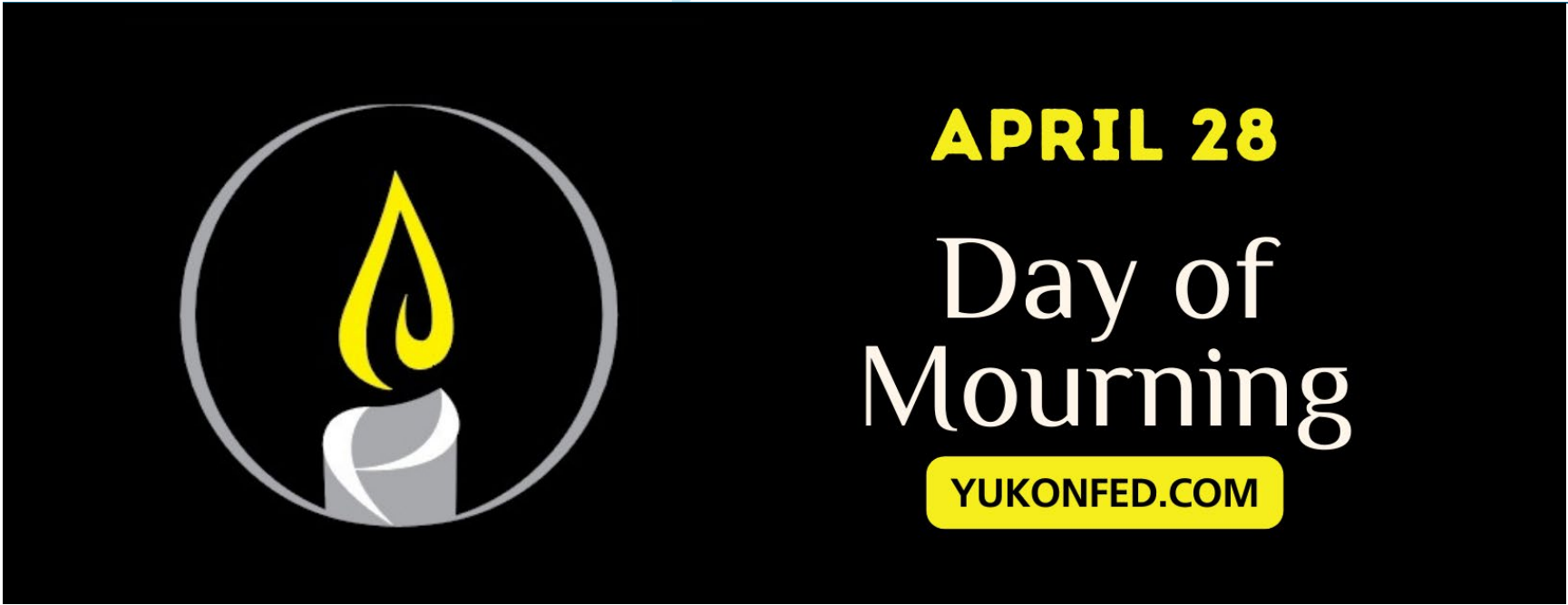
**MEET & GREET  
HOSTED @ YFL OFFICE**

**Tuesday, March 05, 2024  
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**Drop By!**  
315 2237 Second Ave  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 0K7



**Friday, March 08, 2024  
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM**  
Sternwheeler Hotel & Conference Centre  
201 Wood Street  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2E4  
**Open to Everyone!**  
appetizers, refreshments, entertainment, a photo booth, crafting, and a speakers panel of women who inspire!



Picture Caption: Yukon Federation of Labour will one again be hosting a Ceremony at the Yukon Worker’s Memorial on Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> in honor of workers who have fallen ill or been injured on the job. The ceremony will also be livestreamed for those not able to attend in person.

# Canadian Apprenticeship Forum

## Connecting the Trades & Apprentices across Canada

----- TERESA ACHESON

CAF-FCA hosts several webinars and events every year available to the public as well as member only event. Upcoming webinars are advertised on the Events page of their website.

Upcoming Events worth considering attending:

**National Apprenticeship Conference**, Calgary, Alberta, June 2nd to 4th

**Supporting Equity in the Skilled Trades Conference**, Toronto, Ontario, May 2025.

CAF-FCA is a non-profit organization that connects Canada’s apprenticeship community. Participants work collaboratively to support vibrant and innovative apprenticeship systems and policies to develop a highly skilled, inclusive and mobile skilled trades workforce.

**Skills for Success Event for Supporting Indigenous Learners**, Algonquin College, Ottawa, Ontario, October 23, 2024

Supporting Indigenous Learners event in October is seeking tradespersons from the Indigenous community interested in speaking about their experiences working in trades. Should you be interested in this opportunity, please reach out to the Director of Research, Emily Arrowsmith at [emily@caf-fca.org](mailto:emily@caf-fca.org).



### Share the Survey available on our website

### SUPPORT FOR Temporary Foreign Workers

----- TERESA ACHESON

With an increase in Immigration to the Yukon there is a growing number of new to Yukon and new to Canada workers, that may come for work but not be aware of their rights under the law in Canada and Yukon.

Temporary Foreign Workers are even more vulnerable than most other employees who feel under the control of employers and fear speaking out. The Yukon Federation of Labour hosted an information session with the Pan African Association of Yukon with IRCC Consultant Ross Storey who explained the pathways and supports for workers and employers in the immigration system.

If you know a foreign worker who might be looking for help, share these:

A few years ago IRCC introduced an [open work permit for vulnerable foreign workers](#) who are victims of abuse.

A link to TFW Rights: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/foreign-workers/protected-rights.html>

Information on employer compliance: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/foreign-workers/employer-compliance.html#h2.00>

More information sessions can be scheduled to help workers understand the streams and services with IRCC.





# Labour Trends in Yukon

## Impacts on workplace health & safety

----- TERESA ACHESON

President Acheson was able to present to the Workers Safety & Compensation Board and Stakeholders at their Strategic Planning sessions in January 2024. She provided a brief overview of the Yukon Federation of Labour, labour trends in the Yukon, and recommendations addressing the challenges and opportunities in the coming years.

**Increased Demand for Workers:** There is a notable demand for workers in most sectors, particularly mining, tourism, healthcare, and construction, leading to higher job vacancies in these areas. Yukon also has the lowest unemployment rate across Canada.

**Changing Workplace Demographics:** There is a skilled labour gap left by retiring experienced workers and an influx of young workers as well as immigrant workers. Workplaces are also changing as more indigenous ways of learning are embraced and First Nations governments evolve.

**Remote Work and Flexible Arrangements:** These alter the traditional landscape of employment, requiring adaptation of safety training methods and context, and elevates the importance of worker well-being, mental health support, and work-life.

**Economic Growth Impact:** The overall economic growth in Yukon is influencing labor market trends, with new projects and investments contributing to shifts in employment demands and opportunities.

These trends are shaping the labor market in Yukon, influencing job availability, skill requirements, and the nature of work arrangements. Yukon also needs to plan for the impacts of climate change, sustainable jobs, and the further impact of AI and digital work. Read more at [yukonfed.com/news](http://yukonfed.com/news)

### Yukon Labour Force 2021 Census

Immigrant  
First Nations  
65+  
Young Worker  
Language at work

40% Public | 20% Self | 40% Private

### Police-reported rates<sup>2</sup> of family and non-family violence, 2022

Province/Territory	Rate (per 100,000)
Canada	337
NL	415
PE	251
NS	325
NB	429
QC	418
ON	221
MB	585
SK	730
AB	361
BC	272
YT	1,135
NT	3,798
NU	5,194

Picture Caption: In 2022, Yukon's rates of family violence (1,135 per 100,000 of population) and intimate partner violence (1,310 per 100,000 of population) were the third highest in Canada, followed by Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

### SAFETY TALKS...BY WSCB

Did you know that the Worker's Safety & Compensation Board offers simple-to-use and focussed Safety Talks on things like hypothermia, ladder safety, and working alone? Each one identifies the hazards, possible effects (risk), how to prevent, and what to do if it happens. These are great for any worker and provide outlined details you can use for your own workplace Hazard Assessments.