



Convention Bulletin

Saturday October 18

Solidarity Summit Kicks Off



Sixty-three delegates representing all UNW Locals have gathered in Yellowknife for the 16th Triennial Convention. During three full days of proceedings, delegates are reviewing and debating the priorities and actions of the NWT's largest labour union, attending to procedural and financial business, electing executive leadership and setting union direction for the coming three years. Regional and national speakers will expand on the theme, "Building Solidarity Through Representation". Taking political action to defeat regressive and anti-union governments is a priority of the convention discussions.

Assembly Demonstration Protests Pension Bill, Privatization



Convention delegates and supporters opposed to the Bill 12 attack on NEBS pensions, and to the privatization of Stanton Hospital Facilities Management services, took their protest to the Legislative Assembly yesterday. Demonstrators including our partners in PSAC North and the Northern Territories Federation of Labour marched to tell MLAs that the pension bill must be withdrawn. They called for an end to privatization of hospital services. UNW Executive and Regional Vice Presidents also appeared in the Assembly gallery on Thursday to emphasize leadership's opposition to Bill 12 and privatization.

Convention Opening Guests

Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington, Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck, NTFL President Mary Lou Cherwaty, PSAC North REVP Jack Bourassa (left to right)



President Reports to Membership

UNW Todd Parsons President reported on the progress and accomplishments of the last three years in his President's Address and Report. Key elements of the address included updates on:

- New "House of Labour" Building Project
- Political action for the future
- National and Regional Campaigns
- Contracting out and P3's
- Clearing the backlog of grievances
- Status of bargaining at 29 locals
- Special Projects and Funding
- Support to locals
- Community Support
- Social Justice activities

The President delivered the keynote address and written report on behalf of the Full Executive. Copies of the President's Address and Report will be posted to the UNW website—www.unw.ca

"Building Solidarity Through Representation"

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House of Labour Update

Convention delegates toured the site of the UNW's new home Friday after UNW President Parsons briefed delegates on the project. The 35,000 square foot, four-storey facility will be shared with our PSAC and NTFL solidarity partners. With a commercial tenant, all building spaced is leased and generating yearly revenue. At a project cost of \$15 million, it is anticipated the asset value will increase to \$22.6 million within 10 years of construction. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.



Convention Business Highlights

- Delegates gathered for Friday morning for Convention School training in the rules and procedures used to stage an orderly and democratically correct convention
- Members paused in silent remembrance for the 34 deceased brothers and sisters commemorated on the Memorial List
- Nomination Committee Chair and Past PSAC National President John Gordon briefed delegates on the rules and procedures for nominations and elections to executive offices
- Delegates gathered Friday evening for a Host Committee Meet and Greet, sponsored by Stantec



Rosie the Riveter (aka Beaufort Delta—Sahtu RVP Val Robertson) channels the spirit of Rosie and puts the hammer down.



Staff Make It Happen

There'd be no convention without the long hours put in by staff. (Left to right) Patti Ducharme, Della Knee, Caitlin Lacey, Nancy Gardiner, Roxanna Bassi, Alex McBride and Ann Marie Thistle assemble the materials to greet the delegates.

***“Building
Solidarity
Through
Representation”***

