



# Convention Bulletin

Sunday October 19

## RVP/EVP Elections

Results of the elections for the 2014 to 2017 Regional Vice Presidents and Equity Vice President have been announced. The RVPs are: Alex Lambrecht—Sombe Ke'; Chris Potyok—North Great Slave; Lauraine Armstrong—Fort Smith; Roy Courtoreille—Hay River; Val Robertson—Beaufort Delta/Sahtu; Christina Holman—Deh Cho; Ivan Landry—Kimberlite. Miriam Gordon was elected Equity Vice President.

## CLC's Barb Byers Delivers Keynote Address



Canadian Labour Congress Secretary Treasurer Barb Byers inspired delegates Saturday with her message of unity and strength in the keynote address, *Building Union Power Through Representation*. Byers reminded delegates that members can make the shift from a “**the** union” to a “**my** union” attitude when leaders listen to members concerns and base union actions on the concerns most important to the members. “If we don’t talk the members’ language, why would they listen to us?”, she asked, saying that power at the bargaining table comes when employers know that members are informed and committed. “We win things when the employers know the members are talking about the issues.” She said that union engagement with the memberships is a continuous flow, not just driven by bargaining or elections events. She applauded the UNW’s Mentorship Program as an excellent example of spreading knowledge and experience to build commitment and union democracy. Byers full remarks will be posted to the UNW website.

## All Candidates Forum Spotlights Issues and Positions

Executive office candidates faced questions in the one hour forum moderated by PSAC National Executive VP Chris Alwaryd. Left to right: Todd Parsons (president candidate) Marie Buchanan (2<sup>nd</sup> VP candidate), staffer Mandy Rocks, Gayla Thunstrom (1<sup>st</sup> VP candidate), Curtis Gibeau (1<sup>st</sup> VP candidate) and Frank Walsh (president candidate).



## Finance Committee Approves 3 Year Budget

Delegates have reviewed and approved the \$14 million budget covering January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017. The budget details the funding of the UNW’s continuing operations and begins the process of financing construction of the new *House of Labour*. It includes new initiatives, including:

- \$50,000 each year for creation of a Leadership Development Program, to identify and cultivate the UNW’s leaders of tomorrow
- \$25,000 per year for creation of a shop stewards network, to promote and increase the interaction of shop stewards within and across regions
- \$10,000 per year for creation of a municipal government candidates school, to ensure aspiring and sitting municipal leaders actions on councils don’t conflict with their responsibilities as union members
- Doubled the funding in dues rebates to locals with less than 105 members, from \$400 per quarter to \$800 per quarter

# Convention Bulletin Sunday October 19

## Mentorship Participants Honoured



UNW 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gayla Thunstrom extended formal appreciation yesterday to the members from 16 locals who took part in the UNW Mentorship Program. The four week program provides local members with the opportunity to develop the array of skills needed to grow as effective union leaders. Knowledge of the processes of grievances, skills for taking part in public meetings and sponsoring advocacy, and of the role and responsibility of service officers provide firsthand knowledge of union support and service to members.

## Bylaws and General Resolutions Reviewed, Debated, Voted

Delegates reviewed a total of 17 regular and one emergency resolution in two hours of debate Saturday afternoon. All Resolutions Committee recommendations for concurrence and non-concurrence were accepted, except for two resolutions dealing with Alternate Regional Vice President and Alternate Equity Vice President positions. Twenty-five housekeeping amendments to by-laws were passed in one block, correcting editorial errors. An emergency resolution calling for the UNW to partner with the Northern Territories Federation of Labour and PSAC North in a campaign opposition to contracting out of Stanton Hospital maintenance was passed unanimously. **Details on the content and disposition of resolutions will be included in the upcoming 2014 Convention Report.**



Roxanna Baisi and Ken Stewart were honored for their more than 30 years service each, Rosanna as a UNW staff person and Ken as an executive officer and leader.

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

## PSAC National President Address

PSAC National President Robyn Benson gave her sixteenth regional component address since April on the theme she has delivered across the country—“The first priority is to build unity and strength.” She says components across the country must focus their efforts in three areas: protect past collective agreements with no concessions; defend public services for all Canadians; and, defeat the Harper government. Benson says the PSAC is under attack by a federal government determined to crush union power and roll back the progress of decades worth of struggles.

