

UNW

Action Update



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Message from the President

Hello Members!

Another spring is here and we look forward to the summer months leading to the 2017 UNW 17th Triennial Convention.

Over the years, I have committed to an open door policy for members at the UNW and I stand by that commitment. I encourage you to contact me, your RVP, your Local, one our Directors at HQ if you have any questions or wish to discuss anything.



I personally believe that our people - staff, members and volunteers alike - are working hard and doing a great job. We truly have a strong, dedicated union family.

I do recognize that we must always strive to do things better. In order to make decisions that benefit the membership as a whole, we need your input. In the coming months, the UNW will be asking your thoughts and feedback by way of mini email surveys. They will be short (approximately 10 -15 minutes for each survey). The first survey will be coming out very soon and will be about union training and education, and how we can build a strong and engaged membership.

Please keep an eye out for this survey in your inbox. Your input is valuable and indeed crucial! The members guide and shape the direction of the Union.

In solidarity,

Todd

May 9, 2017

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"The Mission of the Union of Northern Workers is to inspire, engage and empower workers and community through quality education, effective representation, model public service and political action."

[UNW Members Discounts](#)

Mark's Work Warehouse

Clothes That Work.

UNW News

Bargaining Highlights

All regular updates are posted on the Bargaining Updates section of the website.

[GNWT](#)

During the March 8 - 10, 2017 bargaining session, the parties worked on a number of areas of common interest and plan to meet again to resume negotiations in the near future.

The UNW and the GNWT have agreed there will be no public comment at this time.

The bargaining team met in caucus on April 21 to regroup and discuss where they left off.

[NTPC](#)

The last session of collective bargaining took place from Jan 8 to 10, 2017. Please stay in touch with your bargaining team for information and to give support and feedback.

[Dominion Diamond Corporation](#)

Workers at Local 3050 voted in favour of a new four-year [collective agreement](#) struck with Dominion Diamond Corporation in March. A [tentative deal](#) had been reached Feb. 2. The deal was [ratified](#) by the membership on March 28.

The bargaining team expresses its thanks to members who offered continued support over many months of negotiations with the employer.

Josie Gould Memorial Scholarship

Attention scholars!

The annual Josie Gould Memorial Scholarship is now open!

The deadline to apply is June 30, 2017 at 5 p.m.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information on our application process.



UNW Triennial Convention

Our 17th Triennial Convention will be held Oct. 27 to 29.

Some important upcoming deadlines!

- **May 29, 2017** - All RVP/EVP nominations must be submitted to the DFA by this date.
- **June 28, 2017** - Resolutions from the Locals must be submitted to the DFA by this date.
- **July 28, 2017** - All names of observers must be submitted to DFA by this date.
- **July 28, 2017** - Resolutions from the Executive must be submitted to the DFA by this date.

Convention Basics

Democracy

Members who attend participate in democratic action as they get to choose their leaders. Members also get to collectively shape the UNW's activities as they decide on the union's priorities.

Convention delegates all come from within the membership and are chosen by ballot by each Local, usually at an Annual or Special General Meeting.

Once elected, delegates provide ideas and input on behalf of their Locals

through Resolutions. If those resolutions are passed at Convention, they become documents which guide the entire work of the Union.

Welcome Locals 38 and 39

Welcome to our two new Locals in our union family.

Local 38, which was formerly a part of Local 1, will represent GNWT employees in the Tlicho area. Local 38 is part of the [North Great Slave Region](#).

Local 39, which used to be part of Local 3, will be made up of members from the Sahtu area. Local 39 remains a part of the [Beaufort Delta-Sahtu Region](#).

Welcome to all!

Union of Northern Workers Sponsors Volleyball Team



The Kimberlite Region sponsored a Yellowknife volleyball team, The "UNW Serv-ivors," at the NWT Territorial Volleyball Championship at St. Patrick High School, February 24 to 26, 2017.

At back from left to right are: George Daliva, Mike Miranda, PJ Wedzin, Nick Landry, and Blake Baillargeon.

At front from left to right are: Charlie Kudlak, Ivan Landry, Zach Comeau. Missing from photo Shaun Thagard, Lonnie Zoe, Zach Whalen.

Fight Aurora College Cuts! Keep up the Pressure!

In February, the UNW was involved in a number of protests against proposed cuts to the GNWT 2017-18 budget. Part of those cost reductions included eliminating two programs at Aurora College.

Since then the GNWT has temporarily suspended these plans and will be reviewing all programs and governance. A final report will be issued in the Fall of 2017 and it will be determined at a later date if the teachers' program and social work program will be eliminated.

We believe the decision has already been made and the review is just a way to delay further cuts.



Check out some important articles and opinions on our [website](#)

See also [a letter](#) by YWCA Yellowknife to the Aurora College Board of Governors and [a letter](#) by a Bachelor of Education graduate in Northern Public Affairs.

Please contact your MLA and tell them to save Aurora College programs and funding!



Celebrating Pink Shirt Day

The UNW was pleased to join PSAC North and students from the community to mark Pink Shirt Day, Feb. 22 at the Legislative Assembly. The day signifies our continued commitment to fight for inclusivity and reduce bullying in the workplace. Please see photos from the day [here](#) and [here](#).

Regulations and Bylaws

In coming issues of "Action Update", we will be highlighting sections of interest of the UNW [Regulations](#) and [Bylaws](#). Both are available on our website.

Bylaw 11 - Locals - Section 6 - Minutes of Meetings

There are a couple of places in the UNW Bylaws that reference minutes of meetings. However, Bylaw 11, Section 6 spells out the requirement of Locals to send copies of all meetings to the UNW Headquarters.

This is so all minutes are kept in a central location and can be made available to members. It is also important that the Full Executive is aware of things going on with the Locals.

PSAC News

Petition against Bill C-27, An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act

Please take the time to help fight a federal bill that would introduce [targeted pensions](#) and eliminate [defined pensions](#) in the federal public service.

See the [legislation!](#)
Send a [letter!](#)
Sign the e-[petition!](#)

This legislation currently would affect [10,575 PSAC members](#) and dangerously opens the door to pensions that are less secure, not fully funded by the employer and not legally protected. Employees would carry the burden of risk and would be open to market volatility under the government's new plan.

Let's make Universal Child Care a Reality

In the North, a federal universal child care program could provide women and families more family support options, like accessing the labour market or attending a post-secondary institution.

Please see the [PSAC National initiative](#) to make universal child care a reality.

Battle to Fix the Phoenix Pay System Carries On

FIX PHOENIX PAY SYSTEM !

The battle to ensure federal workers receive full and fair pay on time due to the Phoenix Pay System continues. PSAC recently announced some progress for employees who require parental and disability leave. Please

read the [announcement](#) to learn more.

Training and Events

Survey coming

We continue to strive to reflect the needs of our members. In the coming months leading up to October's convention, we will be sending periodic surveys to our membership so that we can get your input.

The first survey will be about our union training. Please stay tuned for surveys beginning in May!

Is your Local interested in Union training?

Please contact Kadee St. Croix, Service Administration Assistant at stcroix@unw.ca for more information.

Service Officer Coverage in Inuvik

Dates for Service Office Coverage in Inuvik have been posted to our website. Please note the dates [here](#).

In the Community

UNW and United Way NWT Thanks You!

The Union of Northern Workers, as a strong supporter of the [United Way NWT](#), wants to send a big thank you to all members who donated through the 2016 payroll campaign.



**United Way
NWT**

Thanks to your donations, the United Way NWT is going to be able to invest more than \$170,000 to 21 non-profits in the NWT in 2017.

UNW [donated \\$5,000](#) during the United Way fall campaign and remains a committed supporter of its annual campaigns. To read more about how the UNW has supported United Way in the past, please visit our [website](#).

Please watch for upcoming news about UNW support for United Way NWT on our [website](#).

Looking for Racers!

The NWT Disabilities Council will be hosting the Fifth Annual Yellowknife Grand Prix on Saturday June 10.

The UNW is a proud sponsor of this annual event and the Council remains one of our [community partner organizations](#).

Age groups that may participate are 6-7, 8-10, and 11-12.

For more information, please visit the [website](#).

The poster is for the 'Fifth Annual Yellowknife Grand Prix' held on Saturday, June 10th. It features a bright green background with a sunburst pattern. At the top, it says 'CELEBRATING THE FIFTH ANNUAL YELLOWKNIFE GRAND PRIX SATURDAY JUNE 10TH'. The main text 'CALLING ALL RACERS!' is in large, bold, orange letters. Below this is a logo for the 'YK Grand Prix' featuring a race car and the text 'NWT DISABILITIES COUNCIL' and 'HOSTED BY 2017'. At the bottom, it states 'RACES WILL TAKE PLACE ALL DAY FROM 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM (unless ON SCHOOL DRAW AVENUE)'. It also includes the text 'IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A RACER SPACES ARE FOR CHILDREN AGED 6-7, 8-10 AND 11-12' and contact information: 'FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US BELOW PHONE: 867-873-8230 | EMAIL: ADMIN@NWTDC.NET WE ARE ALSO LOCATED IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE SCOTIA CENTER'.

Fight With Your Feet - Join the 5th Annual MS Walk -



As an active sponsor of the Multiple Sclerosis of Canada - Yellowknife Branch, the UNW once again helped sponsor the 5th Annual MS Walk last month.

The event took place on Sunday, April 30 at Mildred Hall School and raised \$29,000. Please visit the MS Society of Canada AB/NT Yellowknife Office [Facebook page](#) or the Jayman Built MS [website](#) more details.

Did You Know?

UNW donates \$5,000 annually to each of the seven regions for school programs as designed by the Regional Vice President representing each region.

The North Slave RVP and Somba K'e RVP combine the monies and donate \$10,000 annually to the Rotay Club to allocate to school food programs.

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