



UNW New Building History



Finding a new home for the UNW was first discussed at an annual UNW Executive Strategic Planning retreat in 2006 with a goal of having UNW/PSAC/NTFL under one roof.

With Executive approval, the proposal was taken to 2008 UNW Convention as part of finance committee report. UNW Convention is the supreme governing body of the Union and all Locals have representation at Convention. Membership agreed with this vision and ratified – and work began on making the new office space a reality.

UNW management spent a lot of time trying to locate a suitable building in terms of size, location, suitability, accessibility, etc.

In 2009, the Executive commissioned an Office Pre-Feasibility Study from a local real estate firm. Accessibility was identified as a priority. The study looked at four options:

- Renovate and take over entire UNW building for office space.
- Find partners/tenants to share a new build.
- Split UNW operations into two buildings.
- Purchase space in an existing office tower.

Based on this report and extensive discussions, the Executive determined that building a new, single "House of Labour" is the best option. The study concluded a new building would be most cost effective and provide the best benefits to membership. Analysis showed that major renovations to the existing building were not cost-effective.

At subsequent UNW strategic planning sessions, the Executive continue to identify the new building as a priority. Some current building issues included lack of space, escalating costs in maintenance/repairs to the building.

At 2011 UNW Convention, the finance committee brought the matter back to the floor, and membership confirmed the vision to continue searching for a new building.

Finding suitable property continued to be a challenge, but in 2013 a suitable lot was finally located.

The project was tendered, and Clark Builders was awarded the design/build contract. Long term leases were secured, ensuring complete financial security, and the ability to pay down a small mortgage quickly.

At 2014 UNW Convention, the finance committee and president brought financial information as well as building renderings to the membership. Membership overwhelmingly and excitedly supported the project.

As the project proceeded, it became clear that adjustments were needed to building elevations. The adjoining lot was purchased to provide options for the building and UNW membership in the future.

In February 2016, the UNW moved into the new digs. By the middle of March, all of the other tenants (Public Service Alliance of Canada, Northern Territories Federation of Labour, and Stantec Consultants) had also moved in.

