

UNW

Action Update



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Message from the President

Dear UNW Members,

Welcome to 2017! For many of us at the UNW, 2016 just flew by.

The UNW moved into our new building in February 2016. Finding a new home for the UNW and having the UNW, PSAC, and NTFL under one roof, was first discussed over 10 years ago at an annual Executive Strategic Planning retreat. Now here we are, a force of solidarity, in the new North Star Building.

2016 was a tough year for our biggest bargaining units and we are facing hard bargaining employers who refuse to compromise on anything.

We have to give the GNWT credit for their propaganda. Before bargaining even began, they set the stage by telling everyone that hard times were coming, and there is no money for anything. We have now seen that there IS money - lots of it, in fact! But the Government of the Northwest Territories has determined that infrastructure - and infrastructure alone - is where that money is going to be spent. Your bargaining teams want you to know this truth: We aren't opposed to ALL infrastructure spending! We just want the Employer a fair compromise. The workers deserve that much respect.

After all, isn't that what negotiation is all about? Give and take. Discussion. **Compromise.**

To read the full message, please click [here](#).

UNW News

Bargaining Highlights

Please stay tuned to the Bargaining Updates section of the website for regular updates.

[GNWT](#)

Collective bargaining resumes on March 8 to 10, 2017.

[NTPC](#)

Collective bargaining continued Jan 8 to 10, 2017.

[Dominion Diamond Corporation](#)

February 10, 2017

[UNW News](#)

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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
Wearhouse

Clothes That Work.

Another round of negotiations were held with the employer from January 30 to February 3, 2017. The Bargaining team was pleased to reach a [tentative deal](#). Please also see the latest [Bargaining Communiqué](#) from the team.

Ratification votes are being scheduled.

Rallies held at NWT Legislative Assembly to protest job cuts



The Union of Northern Workers participated in a series of rallies at the NWT Legislative Assembly during the week of Feb. 7 to 9.

Numerous participants showed up to protest cuts to programming and jobs in the proposed GNWT Budget, released Feb. 1.

To see our collection of photos from the events, please visit our [webpage](#).

Rally in Fort Smith



UNW member Chris Westwell organized a protest against proposed GNWT job cuts and Aurora College program reductions in the GNWT 2017-18 budget.

About 30 protesters attended a march from the Fort Smith post office to Aurora College on Saturday, Feb 4.

To see photos of the day, please visit our [webpage](#).

Welcome Aboard Melissa!

Please join us in welcoming Melissa Pohajdak, CPA, CA, our new Director of Finance and Administration.

Melissa has worked with the union in the past as an auditor with Crowe MacKay LLP. In her new role she will oversee financial, administrative, and political functions of the UNW.

Please contact her through the [webpage](#) with any questions or concerns.



New Regional Vice-Presidents

The UNW welcomes three new Regional Vice-Presidents.

They are:



[Jason Card](#)

RVP for North Great Slave Region
Represents Locals 9, 10, 11, 25 and 345



[David Bob](#)

RVP for Beaufort Delta-Sahtu Region
Represents Locals 3, 19 and 29



[Susan Harrison](#)

RVP for Somba K'e Region
Represents Locals 1, 16, 28, 30, 32 and 33

Did You Know?

UNW allocates political action funds to Locals at a rate of \$12.50 per signed member, per annum.

Monies are used to engage in educational, political, economic and other activities that advance and protect the economic and social conditions of the UNW, its members and other working people.

To learn more about how Political Action Funds are used, please visit our [website](#).

Thank You Local 6!



The Union of Northern Workers Executive was moved by the gift of a beaded art piece of the UNW logo, courtesy of Local 6 Hay River. Artistic work was done by Kim Lea, a Programs Advisor at the NWT Housing Corporation and member of Local 6 and Alice Abel.

A formal presentation of the gift took place at our UNW Open House in October. We have since placed the artwork in our boardroom (right).

Steward Conference a Success!



The UNW Education Committee held another successful Steward Conference in Yellowknife on Nov. 5 and 6, 2016. There were 17 stewards in attendance.

Please see our [Shop Steward Conference](#) section of the website for full details!

Interested in Becoming a Shop Steward?

Shop Stewards and Local Executive Officers inform their co-workers of their rights and responsibilities under their collective agreement. They help resolve problems, handle grievances, and educate fellow workers about the policies of their union.

Being a steward is a challenging and rewarding way to make a meaningful contribution to the health of your workplace and the lives of your co-workers.

If you are interested in becoming a steward in your Local, contact your Local president for more information.

PSAC News

Robin Benson's New Year Greeting

Robin Benson, PSAC president provided a warm New Year's Greeting noting achievements that were made like a collective agreement with the federal Treasury Board. She also talked about challenges that lie ahead like fixing the Phoenix pay system and needs for childcare in Canada in the

future.

Please visit the [PSAC website](#) to read her message.

PSAC North Regional Women's Conference

The PSAC North Regional Women's Conference is quickly approaching! The event will take place on March 22 and 23 at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto, Ontario. The conference takes place prior to the National Equity Conferences in the same location.

Please visit the [PSAC North website](#) for updates.

PSAC National Equity Conference

2017 PSAC National Equity Conferences will take place from March 24 to 28, 2017 at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto, Ontario. This year the conferences' theme will be "Equality at Work."

Please watch the PSAC [website](#) for updates.

PSAC Service Awards

The PSAC offers service awards in recognition of its member officers at any level of ten years or more of service to the Alliance membership. At the UNW Open House for our new building, we presented the recipients for 2016.

Please visit our [website](#) for photos and more information.

Training and Events

Training Calendar

Winter training dates are up on our [website](#).

To register, or for more information, please contact Kadee St. Croix, Service Administration Assistant at stcroix@unw.ca or the Service Officer providing the training.

Mentorship

The Union of Northern Workers remains committed to "Building at the Base" and this includes supporting Locals and Local Officers, with the goal that Locals are able to function at a higher level.

The UNW offers advanced training which will include hands-on experience with the guidance of UNW staff and employees at HQ or a combination of HQ and a Regional Office. The main focus is mentoring and enabling the Local Officer to represent its members effectively.

Please see our [Mentorship Program brochure](#) for more information.

In the Community

Christmas in Fort Smith



David Porter FSVFD, left, is presented a check by Brad Brake, president of Local 2, on Dec. 10, 2016.

Facing temperatures of minus 30 C the Volunteer Fire department of Fort Smith spent a very cold morning collecting food and toys for the community "Food and Toy Drive."

UNW Local 2 President Brad Brake was at the Fire Hall as the firefighters arrived back after 4 hours collecting door to door in bitter cold temperatures. The Local presented a donation to the Food and Toy drive in the amount of \$500.00.

"We are very proud to support the good works within our community and the executive was very pleased to present this small token on behalf of the members in Fort Smith," Brake said.

Local X0002 has also donated similar amounts this year to the Fort Smith Food Bank and the Fort Smith Animal Shelter.

NWT Wellness Fair



NWT Wellness Society Fair, Sir John Franklin School, February 2016

The 2016 NWT Wellness Society Wellness Fair was held in February at Sir John Franklin School.

UNW, NTFL and PSAC North collaboratively held information booths at the fair on merging issues such as depression in the workplace, child care, pension/security, health and safety, anxiety, and wellness. Other booths covered such topics as fracking, mental health, anti-poverty and environmental awareness programs.

For more photos of our participation at the fair last year, please visit our [webpage](#).

UNW extends condolences to victims of Quebec mosque shooting

The UNW was shocked and saddened following the mass shooting at the Islamic Cultural Centre in Quebec City, Jan. 29. Please see our written [message of support](#) to our Muslim friends, neighbours and colleagues.



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