

UNW

Action Update



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President's Message



Budget priorities are People

The first quarter of the year has seen extremely important developments which will shape the labour movement into 2016 and beyond.

The second session of the 18th assembly came to an end in March where the Government of the Northwest Territories claimed that we are on an unsustainable financial footing because of a cut in financial assistance from the Territorial Formula Funding grant and a downturn in the resource sector.

Despite a surplus expected for the next three years, a rigid [fiscal policy management document](#) was presented to the legislature with a dire warning from the Minister of Finance that the long-term economy is "not great". Yet the GNWT is plowing ahead with massive road projects and asking citizens to come up with ways to save \$150 million in their budget.

The government believes that future spending should go toward infrastructure investment to kickstart the economy with planned roads to Whati and the Slave Geological Province. With a shortage of money and a lack of projected growth, that money could be better spent supporting public service delivery in such areas of need as social housing, junior kindergarten, full-time day care, long-term senior care and addictions services.

Our priority is for working people and we remain vigilant in our fight to protect quality jobs and union positions in the North. We have sent a [budget dialogue submission](#) outlining our position as a union, but we strongly encourage our members to participate in the government's [Budget Dialogue](#) before the financial document is released in late May or early June.

UNW News

Bargaining Highlights

- The UNW bargaining team has met with GNWT representatives three times so far. The next set of dates are scheduled for May 10 to 12. The union continues to be concerned about potential job cuts. We invite members to stay updated on [our website](#). Please see our [10 Principles Around Workforce Reduction](#) which we have proposed to protect workers.
- The Union has also met with the Northwest Territories Power Corporation on a number of occasions. Talks will resume in August. Please follow updates [here](#).
- Meetings continue to take place between the union's bargaining team and Dominion Diamond Corporation. Please watch for updates [here](#).

April 21, 2016

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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.

New UNW headquarters

The Union of Northern Workers moved to our brand new building earlier this year at 4910 53rd Street.

Members are welcome to drop in at anytime during working hours to see their new building on Frame Lake.

A grand opening for the public is to be announced for late summer once landscaping has been done.

Please check out [photos of the building](#) on our website. For a history of the building, [click here](#).

Josie Gould Memorial Scholarship

The deadline is quickly approaching for union members to apply for our annual Josie Gould Memorial Scholarship.

Every year, 10 scholarships of \$3,000 each are awarded to UNW Members, their children or their spouses and partners enrolled full-time in post-secondary studies.

Applicants are asked to submit an essay to the UNW by June 30 answering the following question:



What is 'Social Justice' and how can the UNW best use its resources to promote Social Justice programs here locally, nationally and abroad?"

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

Federation of Labour gets new president

Alexander Lambrecht, a young, labour movement activist raised and schooled in Yellowknife was named the 12th president of the Northern Territories Federation of Labour. Please see more [here](#).



National News

Federal Budget response

The Union of Northern Workers welcomed new investments for the North in the federal government's 2016-17 budget on March 22. The UNW looks forward to seeing how commitments to increase the Northern Resident's Allowance and other investments will be carried out. Please see our full response [here](#).

National Day of Mourning

Join us for the annual [National Day of Mourning](#) at the Great Hall at the Legislative Assembly building on April 28 from noon to 1 p.m. This year the Canadian Labour Congress is calling for [a national ban on asbestos](#).

Training and Events

A People's Budget TONIGHT!

Alternatives North will be hosting "A People's Budget" at the Baker Centre, Thursday April 21. The event will take place at 7 p.m. and we encourage our members to publicly make their views known. A summary of input from the meeting will be compiled and submitted to the Finance Department and all Members of the Legislative Assembly, and posted on the Alternatives North website. For more information please visit either the [Alternatives North](#) or [Union of Northern Workers](#) websites. Please see the media release [here](#).



Alternatives North

Local Presidents Meeting

The Local Presidents Meeting will be held June 11 and 12 at the Union of Northern Workers Training Centre. If Local presidents would like to assist with the

meeting, please contact 1st Vice-President Gayla Thunstrom at thunstg@unw.ca. Gayla has sent [an invitation letter](#) to Local presidents which can be viewed on our website..



Youth Workers' Summit

The Canadian Labour Congress is hosting its first-ever Youth Workers' Summit at the Shaw Centre in Ottawa, Oct. 23 to 25. Learn more [here](#) about this incredible opportunity for young people interested in future leadership roles with the labour movement.

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