

UNW

Action Update



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President's Message

Message from the President

The presentation of the budget and subsequent debates in the NWT legislature this month, have revealed a number of important things that the union is continually monitoring. On June 2, the Minister of Finance presented a budget with a \$119 million surplus. At a time when the GNWT was laying out doom and gloom scenarios, as we had predicted, the financial situation turned out to be much more positive than they have been stating since February.



The UNW still firmly believes that job losses in various departments are unacceptable for Budget 2016. The government did very little to encourage or listen to ideas that could have led to a more agreeable budget process. We ask that members continue to lobby your MLAs to oppose all job cuts in the current budget.

So far we have been impressed with the activity of regular MLAs in working for the interests of our members. Our petition of nearly 400 signatures calling on the GNWT to protect public jobs was tabled. Serious questions have been put to both the Minister of Transportation and Minister of Finance as to the economic value of a \$150 million highway construction project to Whati at the expense of public workers and programming.

On a related note - I am sure you are all aware that three of our biggest member groups are currently in bargaining (GNWT, NTPC, DDC). We remain vigilant in seeing that our members are respected and that we get the best deal possible from their employer. Our members work hard for their wages, and with the cost of living rising for everyone, deserve a fair shake. Contact your Local president for "I Support My Bargaining Team" buttons!

UNW News

Bargaining Highlights

As has been reported in the press, on June 14 our members at Local 3050 voted overwhelmingly to reject an offensive offer that came from Dominion Diamond Corporation. Your bargaining team has been in negotiations since 2014. Please see our Bargaining Communique [here](#)

Local presidents' meeting update

The UNW welcomed Local presidents or their representatives from across the NWT for the annual Local presidents' conference, June 11-12. Participants toured the new building



June 30, 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
Wearhouse

Clothes That Work.

and discussed topics like layoffs, fighting public-private-partnership infrastructure projects, bargaining updates, and impacts from Budget 2016. We thank all who attended and appreciate the work Local presidents are doing for the union in the communities. Meeting notes will be sent by email to all Local presidents.

Open house for union headquarters planned for fall



Work on our new union building is almost done, and we are excited to invite our members, friends, and allies to a meet and greet grand opening this fall. Stay tuned to our website for more information on this in the coming weeks.

Josie Gould Memorial Scholarship

Today (June 30) is the deadline to apply for the 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.

Training and Events



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.

Leadership Bursary

UNW is preparing our leaders for tomorrow. Bursaries are now available for up to \$10,000 per person and not to exceed \$50,000 per year. This provides financial assistance to emerging union activists to develop leadership skills and help link them to succession planning. For more information on how to apply for funding, please contact Gayla Thunstrom at thunstg@unw.ca.

Shop Stewards Networking Conference



The Union of Northern Workers will be hosting the 2nd annual 2016 Shop Steward Networking Conference in Yellowknife, later this year.

The event is scheduled to be held Nov. 5 to 6 at the UNW training room. Shop stewards will take part in a weekend of workshops, discussion and collaboration to help fulfill their roles of making a meaningful contribution to the health of the workplace and lives of their members. training is open to Shop Stewards

of UNW who have been nominated by their members at a local general union meeting to attend. See full description of the event at our website [here](#).

Attention Local 1 members!

The UNW is looking for creative and motivated members to help out with union activities. If you are a member of Local 1 and are interested in getting involved please contact Gayla Thunstrom 1st VP or Local 1 president Lorraine Hewlett at local1@unw.ca.

Mentorship Program

Local officers are encouraged to take advantage of the Mentorship Program. The program involves advanced training to allow Locals to function at a higher level. A brochure for this opportunity can be downloaded from our website [here](#). Please contact Gayla Thunstrom for further information at thunstg@unw.ca

Meet your committee: Occupational Health and Safety Committee

The UNW Executive wishes to introduce you to one of its important committees which are hard at work for you. The Occupational Health and Safety Committee



works to raise the profile and increase the awareness of health and safety among members.

The committee also reviews all Local and worksite health and safety committee meeting minutes prior to each full executive meeting. Emerging issues are brought to the executives as needed. Members include (from left) Sister Marie Buchanan (2nd VP), Committee Chair Brother Ivan Landry (RVP Kimberlite), and Sister Lauraine Armstrong (RVP Fort Smith).

For any inquiries, please email Ivan at landryi@unw.ca or by phone at Cell: (867) 446-8065.

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