

UNW

Action Update



[Website](#) [Join UNW](#) [Contact Us](#)

[Forward Email](#) | [Email Signup](#)

President's Editorial

Voting Has Never Been More Important

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. But sadly, far too few people vote.

For the past 30 years in Canada, voters have been disproportionately of higher income, older or more right wing in their interests. Less than half of Canadians failed to vote in the last federal election.

Poor voter turn-out has coincided with widening gaps in wealth, reduced employment opportunities for youth and the increase in anti-union legislation. Governments are increasingly contracting out jobs and using Public Private Partnerships-P3s-to deliver public services.

Workers' rights have been eroded and public service jobs have been lost, replaced by low-paid, non-union workers. For union members and all working people, these trends frustrate social progress and turn back the gains of a century of union struggle.

On October 19, **voters** will pick our next federal leaders, and our municipal leaders in cities, towns and villages. Territorial elections take place November 23 and hamlets elect leaders December 14.

This fall, union members and supporters can turn back the corporate agenda by voting for leaders who share union and public service values. To meet our Members' priorities and objectives, the Union of Northern Workers needs its Members to engage and challenge the candidates, select progressive candidates and, above all, vote.

In our northern communities, you can usually walk to the polling station. The information found in the "Go Vote" story below provides information on identification and other requirements for voting. All it takes is the will to make a difference.

I urge all UNW members to exercise their democratic right to vote. Help select leaders who will be our partners in social progress.



October 2015

[President's Message](#)

[UNW News](#)

[Training and Events](#)

[Resources](#)

"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**

UNW News

Labour Day 2015



UNW President Todd Parsons and Member of Parliament Dennis Bevington dished up the chili and bannock at the annual Labour Day festivities. Union brothers and sisters and community guests came out to celebrate their solidarity and the strength of unionization.

Josie Gould Memorial Scholarships



The \$3,000 Josie Gould Memorial Scholarships for 2015 have been awarded to 10 UNW family members. This year's winners were selected on the basis of their essay contest entries on the theme, "What role can youth play in the union movement, and what can unions do to motivate youth in union activism?". The first Jose Gould Scholarships were awarded in 2002. To date, \$390,000 in scholarships have been provided to 130 students. You can see a complete list of winners and read the essays on the [UNW website](#).

United Way 2015 Kicks Off



UNW President Todd Parsons cuts the cake with NWT Premier Bob McLeod to kick off the 2015 United Way NWT fundraising campaign. This year, President Parsons and Secretary to the GNWT Cabinet Penny Ballantyne are campaign co-chairs. The United Way distributed \$91,500 to 20 projects across the NWT. UNW members and workers across the NWT dip into their pockets every year and generously donate the cash to fund vital community projects. Payroll deduction for United Way contributions is available through most major employers in the territory, and workers can donate through automatic credit card deduction, or one time donation. Contact your human resources department to sign up, or see the [United Way NWT page on the UNW website](#) for information on how to donate. Download the [United Way NWT-UNW poster](#) to display in your workplace.

Community Solidarity

Union of Northern Workers outreach has furthered the success of two social justice campaigns. The UNW stated its formal support for the Alternatives North Living Wage pilot project. The project funded an analysis of the cost of living in Yellowknife, to calculate the minimum hourly wage needed to meet basic costs for a family of two adults and two children. The wage was calculated at \$20.68. See the living wage [media release](#) and [report](#).

The UNW also joined with PSAC North and the NTFL to fund the costs of a workshop to begin development of a social justice common front. Common front movements draw together social justice advocates to agree on common values and plan coordinated action. See [background](#) on the common front event.

National News

Go Vote

The only way to defeat Harper is to vote. Canadian citizens at least 18 years old on election day can cast a ballot. Go to the [Elections Canada website](#) to see whether you are on the voter's list, where and when to vote; what kinds of ID are required to vote, key dates for voting and registration, information for students, first time and Aboriginal voters. Go to the UNW's [Election 2015 webpage](#) for voting information and our [Election Resources webpage](#) for background and questions for candidates on the issues.



Work Life Balance Survey

If you are caring for a relative, particularly one with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia, you know that caregiving is a resource-intensive responsibility. Caregiving can be a balancing act resulting in high levels of work-life conflict, as well as emotional and physical strain. A new survey is asking employed caregivers to share their experiences. The results will be used to increase awareness of the challenges faced by those who combine work and caregiving, and make a business case for change. The information will help PSAC advocate for these issues. [Take the survey now.](#)

Training and Events

Shop Stewards Networking Conference

You raised your hand, you were elected...now what? 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. Shop stewards can attend 2 days of workshops, discussion and collaboration October 23rd and 24th in Yellowknife to learn more on shop steward roles and responsibilities. Whether you are a brand new steward with no experience or a seasoned steward with years of mentorship and experience to share, we need you at the conference. See the [Agenda](#) and [Registration Form](#) and contact Marie Buchanan for details buchanm@unw.ca

Advanced Occupational Health and Safety Training

Plan to attend the PSAC North Advanced OHS training November Nov. 7/8 in Yellowknife. Participants will examine why workplace health and safety is a union issue and explore the historical efforts made by unions for healthy and safe workplaces, and the importance of Workplace Health and Safety Committees. Members will also learn the recent changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Act as of June 1, 2015. For more information or for a course application form please [email](#) Steve Peterson at the PSAC Regional Office or call 867 873 5670 or toll-free 1 (800) 661-0870

Yellowknife Chrysler Discounts

UNW members are eligible for major savings on new and used vehicles at Yellowknife Chrysler. Sale price is guaranteed at only \$800 over cost for the purchase of a new or used vehicle. Members also receive discounts on parts, labour and service, as well as in-store credits on purchases and customer referrals. Yellowknife Chrysler is a no-commission dealership, there are no documentation or administration fees on purchases, and every new or used vehicle comes with a lifetime engine warranty.



Call 873 4222 or 1 866 528 6950 or see the

Yellowknife Chrysler website and download the [benefits factsheet](#).

Union FAQ's

Check out the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the UNW website for all the basics on joining and being in a union. You can also take a look at the excellent Canadian Labour Congress webpage, [I Just Became a Union Member](#). Got an FAQ of your own? [Email](#) it in and we'll get you the answer.

New Shop Steward Manual

The 2015 Edition of the [UNW Shop Steward Manual](#) has been published. Download your copy, or [email](#) to have a bound copy mailed to you.

Contact Us

#200 - 5112 - 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3Z5
UNW.CA

Toll free: 1-877-906-4447
Ph: 867-873-5668
Fax: 867-920-4448

