

# UNW

## Action Update



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### Message from the President

Winter is here and the Holiday Season is fast approaching. We have been very busy the past couple of months with hosting the 17th Triennial Convention and battling to complete the collective agreements with our major employers-the GNWT, NTPC, and the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority.



Our union bargaining teams have been working hard and have been struggling for many months to reach a fair deal for our members. Members of the union are going to stand together and fight the government for fair wages, and a fair approach to addressing rising cost of living - in the same way MLA's salaries do.

On behalf of the Executive I would also like to thank the Host Committee and UNW staff for their hardwork in organizing the 17th Triennial Convention. The convention 's theme "**Solidarity Through Perseverance**" represented the unity, support and the common vision to overcome obstacles as our members have shown over the past three years.

I want to thank the delegates for re-electing me as your President for another term. The new Executive and I are dedicated to work together as a team, and recognize the variety of issues across the Union; we will embrace our diversity and share our issues across our membership, as we are stronger together.

Every single one of us is equally important in our union-our individual gifts give strength to the whole. We CAN affect change. We DO affect change. Through PERSEVERANCE, SOLIDARITY, we ARE FORMIDABLE!

December 6, 2017

[UNW News](#)

[Service Corner](#)

[In the Community](#)

"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.



Todd Parsons  
President, UNW

## UNW News

### Bargaining Highlights

#### GNWT

Last round of bargaining took place in September. Both parties agreed to return to the bargaining table the week of January 29, 2018.

- [GNWT Bargaining Communique](#) - Sept 28, 2017

#### NTPC

On September 28, 2017 bargaining between the UNW and NTPC stalled and came to a impasse. The parties will be filing for mediation.

Over the past couple of months strike votes have taken place in various communities and our members have been casting their ballots in a fight against a brutal employer. The outcome of the vote will indicate whether NTPC employees authorize the union to call a strike, if necessary. The strike vote results may or may not be released. This will be a strategic decision of the UNW bargaining team prior to mediation.

The math is simple for every member who voted YES it gives the bargaining team more power to negotiate the best deal possible at mediation.

- [NTPC Comprehensive Package](#) - Sept 28, 2017
- [NTPC Bargaining Communique](#) - Sept 29, 2017

Please stay tuned to the [Events calendar](#) or [Bargaining Updates](#) pages on our website for more details.

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### Labour Views - "Now is the time for optimism and fresh approaches"

See the November 8th [Labour Views column](#) that appeared in the *Yellowknifer*.

UNW President Todd Parsons speaks about the 17th Triennial Convention, which is the supreme governing body of the UNW and ensures a democratic process to elections and decisions by delegates.

He also highlights the hard work of the union bargaining teams, who have been struggling for many months for a fair deal for our members.

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## Hassan Yussuf, CLC President Addresses Delegates at the 17th Triennial Convention



First elected to the position of President for the Canadian Labour Congress in May 2014, Hassan Yussuf has led Canada's unions in a number of significant victories. In a passionate address to Convention attendees he spoke on a number of topics important to our members today. He highlighted the importance for a stronger Canada Pension Plan and the tabling of Bill C-26 which lead to the expansion of CPP. He reminded the audience that joining a Union is a fundamental right and that all workers in Canada have the opportunity to join a Union of their choice. As the UNW continues to negotiate with the GNWT he also emphasized that the right to strike is a fundamental right protected by the constitution. In conclusion he reiterated that we are currently negotiating with a difficult employer and encouraged members to continue their fight.

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### New Executive



The newly elected Union of Northern Workers Executive from: Top L to R: Christina Holman, RVP Deh Cho, Lauraine Armstrong, RVP Fort Smith, Nicole Tews, 2nd Vice President, Gayla Thunstrom, 1st Vice President, Todd Parsons President. Bottom L to R: Josee-Anne Thibault, RVP Somba K'e, Dawna O'Brien, RVP Hay River, Rashmi Patel as the Equity Vice President, and David Bob, RVP Beaufort Delta-Sahtu. Not

### Do you listen to the radio?

In October, the UNW started playing new Union advertisements on Moose FM at 8 a.m. everyday.

In the coming months, we hope to catch drivers on their way to work and remind listeners the benefits your union brings to Northern workers.



We always welcome your feedback!

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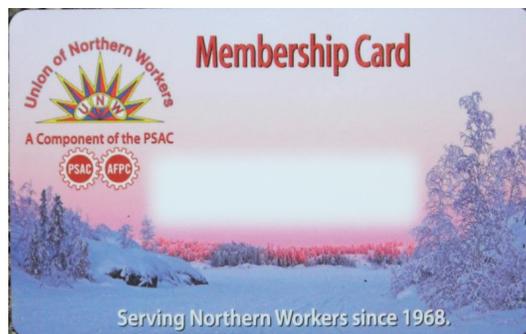
### Rotary Club Recognizes UNW



Kam Hogan, President of the Rotary Club presents UNW President Todd Parsons with a token of appreciation from the Rotary Club of Yellowknife. The UNW is instrumental in providing assistance to several Rotary Club programs including the Rotary Kids Ahead Program.

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### Have you signed your membership card?



**This card is your key to great benefits and participation in your union!**

1. If you have a UNW membership card, you're all set to take

part in your union's affairs.

2. If you don't have your card, visit our website and fill out an [application form](#) today!

3. Allow 2 to 4 weeks for your UNW card to arrive.

4. If you have enquiries please email [mem@unw.ca](mailto:mem@unw.ca).

**It's your union. You can make it work better.  
Sign your card today!**

### Join the Social Media Revolution

A great way to learn about events taking place in your union is through the Union of Northern Workers social media channels. [Twitter!](#) [Facebook page!](#)

You can now find us on Twitter at [@unw\\_nwt](#) where members and our supporters can follow and interact with union activities instantly.



The UNW Facebook group is a closed, central location where members can enjoy a safe environment to learn and discuss events and issues taking place within the union.



[www.facebook.com/groups/UNWNWT](http://www.facebook.com/groups/UNWNWT)

## Executive Update

**NEW RVP Elected**

Congratulations to Sean Dalton who was recently elected as the Regional Vice President North Great Slave.

Reminder we are still looking for a Regional Vice President for Kimberlite. So keep your eyes open for the next call for nominations happening sometime in the New Year.



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## UNW Headquarters

### Happy Retirement!

Best wishes to Nancy Gardiner who recently retired. Thank you for everything you've done, we've been so fortunate to have your expertise to rely on over the past three years.



You will be missed by all. We sincerely hope that retirement is wonderful and we wish you lots of joyous time with your family.

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The United Way Campaign co-chairs, Premier Bob McLeod and UNW President Todd Parsons kicked off the 2017 United Way Campaign at a launch at the Great Hall. **The United Way NWT is a non-profit that fundraises through workplace charitable campaigns that encourage employees to make donations through their paycheque. A variety of different Northern employers have payroll programs such as the GNWT, the Federal Government offices, and local Banks. Last year, employees who were a part of these programs helped the United Way NWT to be able to invest** over \$190,000 in non-profits throughout the north. The campaign runs from Oct to Nov 17. For more details on how you can give visit [www.nwt.unitedway.ca](http://www.nwt.unitedway.ca)



Members of the UNW Executive present the United Way with a cheque for \$5,000 dollars. From L to R: Rashmi Patel, Equity Vice President, Josee-Anne Thibault, RVP Somba K'e, David Bob, RVP Beaufort Delta-Sahtu, Gayla Thunstrom, 1st VP, Christina Holman, RVP Deh Cho, Dawna O'Brien, RVP Hay River, Todd Parsons, President, Tracy St-Denis, United Way, Lauraine Armstrong, RVP Fort Smith, Sean Dalton, RVP North Great Slave, Nicole Tews, 2nd Vice President.

### **25K Raised for YWCA at 17th Triennial Convention**



Todd Parsons, President UNW and Gayla Thunstrom 1st Vice President present Cherish Winsor, President YWCA and Alayna Ward, Director of Community Relations with a cheque for \$25, 000.

UNW delegates, observers and guests opened their wallets and hearts as \$25, 000 was raised for the YWCA, GirlSpace program here in Yellowknife. The Silent Auction at the Convention banquet raised \$5,000, which was later matched by the UNW Executive. The contributions didn't stop there. In a point of privilege Local 3050 donated \$1,000 and challenged other Locals to contribute. The challenge was accepted and Locals 2,3,6,9,10,11,13,21,33,345 met the challenge.

Locals 1, 2 and 22 raised the bar by donating \$2,000 dollars to this worthy cause. And thanks to an anonymous donor the \$25,000 mark was achieved. The GirlSpace program offers girls 8-

17 years old the opportunity to work collaboratively with other girls to develop a space where everyone feels welcome and respected, learn, grow and share in a non-judgmental environment supported by professional staff, build skills, including leadership, teamwork, self-reliance, increased independence, self-awareness and positive self-esteem, and connect with the community in a variety of volunteer roles.

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## Contact Us

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