

“What we desire for ourselves, we wish for all”

Message from the President:

Welcome to our first Yukon Federation of Labour newsletter.

This has been a busy year; we’ve accomplished a lot, and have much to be proud of. The mandate of the YFL is to educate, advocate and act. We continue to work hard to ensure we fulfill that mandate.

Our Training & Education Division offers workers’ compensation and Return-To-Work training, and we are pleased that a great number of Yukon workers have completed this training. They are now poised to become workplace Return-To-Work advisors. This is especially important with recent changes to the Yukon Workers’ Compensation Act.

We are also very pleased to be offering a full slate of labour education courses developed by the Canadian Labour Congress. Make sure you see the schedule of courses on the following pages. It is a great opportunity to have courses of this calibre available locally. We will be introducing new courses over the coming year, so check back often at our website, www.yukonfed.com.

Which brings me to our new website! We are proud to launch our new website, designed for our membership. Come visit, and have a look around. One of the most exciting new features is the ability to register online for courses, conferences and coming events.

The labour movement is about working together, building partnerships and solidarity. We welcome you to learn as much as you can about your rights, responsibilities and opportunities in the work place and the labour community. We are all stronger when we work and learn together!

In Solidarity,
Alex Furlong



YFL President Alex Furlong

YFL Youth Summer Camp 2008



Our first annual youth summer camp was a resounding, rip roaring success! 22 kids and 6 adults spent 3 days at beautiful Braeburn Lake Camp kayaking, canoeing, learning first aid and survival skills, painting, making fossils, singing silly songs and generally having a wonderful time.

The YFL wants to send a huge thank you to our partner affiliates for their generous contributions. Three days of camp free of charge for working families was a tremendous gift, and all involved were very grateful.

Our volunteers & staff made the camp great, with lots of energy and creativity. We at the YFL look forward to expanding this great new Yukon Labour tradition!

What have we been up to? Here’s a quick run-down of the some of the major activities and events the Yukon Federation of Labour has been busy with since September 2007:

- Return-To-Work Symposium, Sept. 2007
- TILMA Education launch, October 2007
- YFL Convention, December 2007
- YFL Youth Summer Camp, June 2007
- International Women’s Day, March 2008
- Young Workers’ Symposium, April 2008
- National Day of Mourning, April 2008
- Women’s Training Bursary Launch, Sept. 2008

READY...

This quick primer outlines the basic fundamentals of the Yukon Workers' Compensation system.

- explains responsibilities of workers & employers.

SET...

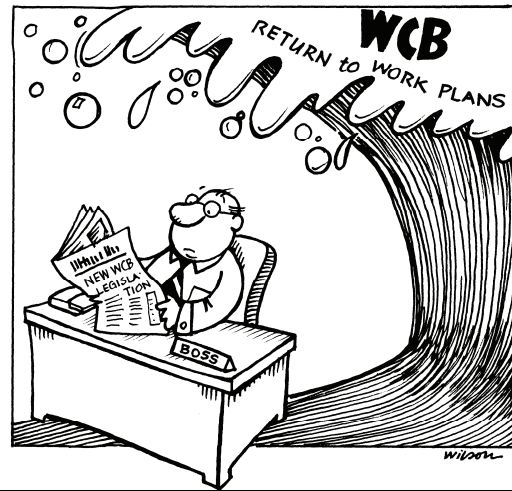
The afternoon session provides a more detailed look at the nuts & bolts of the new legislation and the Return-To-Work program;

- what it is, why it matters, and what the new legislation requires of you.

...KNOW!

This step is vital in fulfilling new WCB legislation. Learn to prepare a Return-To-Work plan.

- Intensive 4 day training session.



Recent changes to the Workers' Compensation Act in the Yukon mean changes to how we respond to workplace injuries. Gone are the days of doctors telling you to stay home for 6 weeks, while you lose touch with your workplace and routine. All across Canada we are seeing a shift toward early and safe Return-To-Work; planning for the reintegration of injured workers, and accommodating their short term needs to permit long term well being. It has been shown that any prolonged absence from work due to injury or illness makes it much more difficult for workers to return to pre-injury work. That means for every week you spend at home, your odds of ever getting back to your regular job are diminished.

Being off work for any length of time causes a domino effect of consequences. It changes how you feel about yourself, how your family functions. Your financial future is also affected. Co-workers often have to take on additional work to fill the gap, and risk injuring themselves in the process. It's a vicious cycle, and one we are working to change.

Become a workplace expert in Return-To-Work planning; take our **READY, SET, KNOW!** information series and **BE READY!**

BE READY!

www.yukonfed.com
or call 667-6676



Fall 2008 READY...SET...KNOW! Dates:

- **READY...SET...** This is a one day course

October 16	9AM—5PM
November 4	9AM—5PM
November 19	9AM—5PM
- **KNOW!** This is a 4 day intensive course

November 24-27	9AM—5PM
----------------	---------

Please visit our website at www.yukonfed.com to register online, or call us at 667-6676

Steward Training, Level 1: TBA Spring 2009, \$75.

Learn the roles, rights and responsibilities of a steward; we cover the basics of identifying and handling complaints and grievances. This course encourages educated activism, and challenges participants to broaden their understanding of the labour movement within our community, and globally. Please bring a copy of your collective agreement.

Steward Training, Level 2: Oct. 15 2008, \$75.

Builds on the steward skills established and strengthened in our Level 1 course. This course will focus on such representation issues as:

- Knowing your membership
- Working with your union executive
- Preparing grievances
- Developing skills in problem solving, conflict resolution.

Collective Bargaining: Nov. 6-7 2008, \$125.

Develop an understanding of the collective bargaining process and the skills needed to participate. Learn about preparations, bargaining proposals from the membership, key contract clauses and current bargaining issues. Bring a copy of your collective agreement and a calculator.

Assertiveness & Problem Solving: Oct. 9 2008, \$75.

Union member or Shop Steward, if you are looking for ways to develop better skills for dealing with stressful situations and conflict at work, this is the course for you.

Leadership: TBA, Spring 2009 \$75.

Fine tune leadership skills you may not even know you have! This course covers leadership styles and myths, along with skills like how to chair meetings and motivate others.

Facing Management: TBA Spring 2009 \$125

This 2 day course is designed to teach a critical awareness of the latest management tactics. We hope to better equip participants with some of the skills necessary to deal with management and empower your membership at the same time.

www.yukonfed.com

Call us at (867) 667-6676, email yfl@yukonfed.com
 Yukon Federation of Labour
 Suite 102, 106 Strickland St.
 Whitehorse YT Y1A 2J5

get
educated!

We are happy to offer a broad range of Labour Education courses developed by the Canadian Labour Congress. **Courses are taught at our training centre, Suite 102-106 Strickland St. Whitehorse YT.**

All CLC courses run from 9AM to 5PM

Register Online www.yukonfed.com
 Phone 667-6676 or email yfl@yukonfed.com

- Have Women Achieved Equality? Answers**
1. TRUE. Just over 86% of women between 25 & 54 are in paid jobs.
 2. TRUE. Almost 53% of women work in these types of jobs. Women make up 70% of workers in sales, administration, education, nursing & health care.
 3. FALSE. Data from the 2001 Census shows us that immigrant women who came to Canada after 1995 earned about \$6,000 less than other women in Canada. A higher education doesn't narrow the gap.
 4. FALSE. It's much higher; about 43% of these families were poor in 2001.
 5. TRUE. 26% of women hold part time jobs compared to 10% of men. Women are 30 times more likely than men to work part time, due to family responsibilities.
 6. FALSE. Women still do 62% of unpaid work in the home, even when working longer hours.
 7. TRUE. Women in unions earn 93% of what men make.
 8. TRUE. Retired women receive 60% of what retired men earn. Factors such as the wage gap, precarious & part time employment, time out of the work force combine to work against retired women.
 9. FALSE. When 8500 health support jobs such as cleaning and food preparation were contracted out in BC, the mainly immigrant workers, women of colour, experienced pay cuts of more than 40% and lost benefits.
 10. TRUE. When women work together and push back, things change. Unions are the best bet for women in the work place; for raising wages, protection against harassment, ways to balance work & family, and for pushing for social programs & a better world.