

Photo Caption: Yukon Wildland Firefighter, Alex MacPhail, raising concerns over no presumptive cancer protections for his co-workers.



Summer Survey Overview

We surveyed Yukon Employees' Union members over the summer of 2025, and the results reflect the realities our members are facing. We registered over 600 inputs.

Economic issues and work-life balance are the two main priorities for members, according to the survey.

From the data, we can infer that members generally feel underpaid and overworked. The cost-of-living crisis is impacting all of us, and services are being delivered on the backs of overworked members.

Members are working harder than ever, yet they find themselves struggling in this economy.

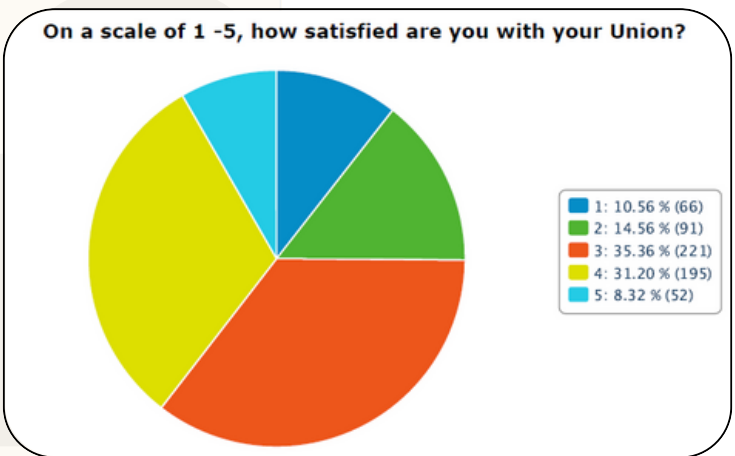
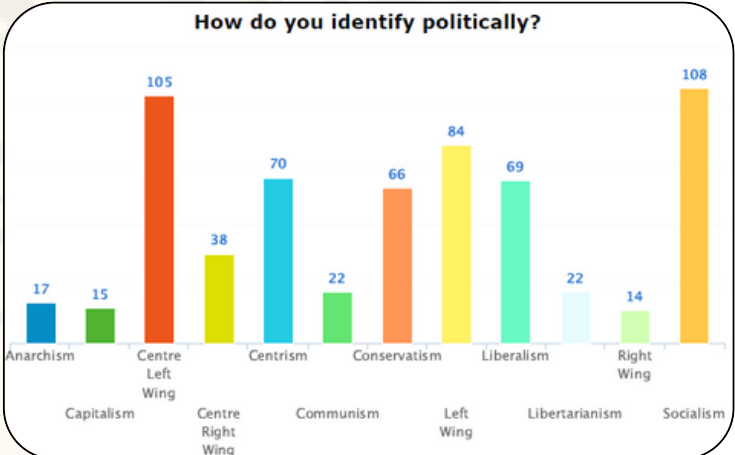
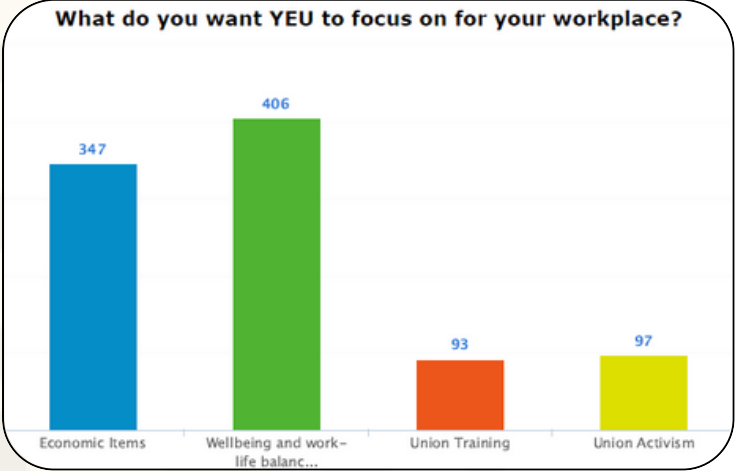
In terms of political identification, "left-wing" identifiers were the largest bloc chosen by members.

There is also significant diversity in how members identify politically. Many members also identified with "right-wing" and "centrist" identifiers.

In gauging satisfaction with YEU, the survey data indicate that members are generally satisfied with the union, but there is more work to be done to serve you better and win your trust.

Your inputs are invaluable to us!

There is more work to be done, and we hope to serve you better in 2026.



UNITED WE BARGAIN, DIVIDED WE BEG!

The Labour movement finds itself at a pivotal point in the Yukon. Bargaining teams, driven by your co-workers and representing most of our membership, are negotiating with multiple employers across the territory to get the best deal possible.

This cost-of-living crisis is hurting all of us, and it is now more important than ever to come together as a united front.

Groceries and housing costs are getting more expensive all the time, and workers are losing their purchasing power little by little every day. **We can change this.**

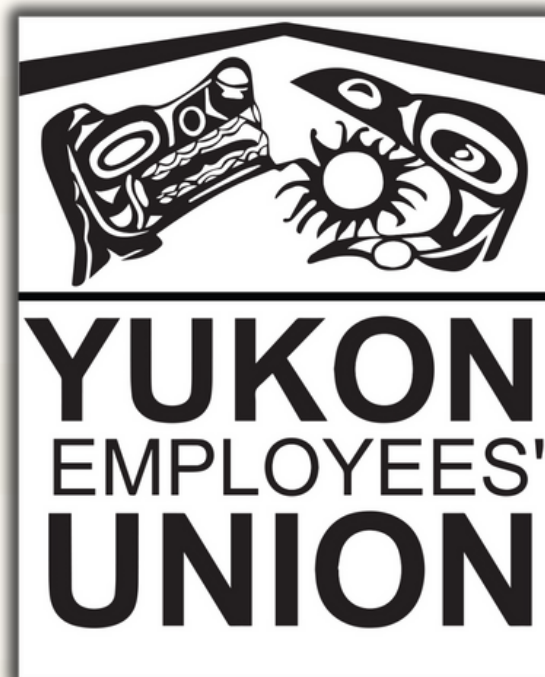
To fix this, **the government and private sector must deliver stable prices, and employers need to provide better wages for workers.** We believe that Canadian workers deserve a dignified and comfortable lifestyle, regardless of their background.

With so many collective agreements in negotiation, 2026 will be a massive year for the Yukon's labour movement. We are committed to securing agreements that allow YEU members to participate in the local economy with dignity.

The 2026 fire season will be here in no time. Premier Currie Dixon **needs to fulfill his election promise** and ensure presumptive cancer coverage for Yukon Wildland Firefighters, your fellow union members, before this fire season begins.

The future of Yukon's health authority's transition remains unclear, **and the government needs to provide clarity on what the future holds for over a thousand workers all over the territory.**

We must stay united in the face of uncertainty. United we bargain, divided we beg.



Bargaining Updates!

Several Locals representing the majority of Yukon Employees' Union members are bargaining all across the territory. Here are some of the directories where bargaining updates for your Local will be posted as they come up.

Yukon Government



Yukon Hospital Corporation



Yukon University



Yukon Energy Corporation



Nakwaye Ku Daycare



Child Development Centre



Yukon Arts Centre



Northern Safety Network



Shop Steward Orientation & Roundtable 2026



Open to both new and experienced stewards, roundtables provide a collaborative space to discuss timely topics, updated on the YEU website before each meeting.

Sessions are led by the Shop Steward Coordinator. Local Executive members and Labour Relations Advisors are often in attendance.

Collaborating with other union representatives, Shop Stewards represent the Union at work, helping co-workers understand rights, address issues, and spot contract concerns. Through the Orientation, new stewards start by consulting with Union staff and communicating basic information, and with training, they grow confident in handling grievances and meetings with management.

Orientation Dates

- January 29, 30
- February 26, 27
- March 26, 27
- April 23, 24
- May 28, 29
- June 25, 26
- July 30, 31
- August 27, 28
- September 24, 25
- October 29, 30
- November 26, 27

Roundtable Dates

- January 15, 21
- March 18, 19
- April 15, 16
- May 20, 21
- June 17, 18
- July 15, 16
- August 19, 20
- September 16, 17
- October 15, 21
- November 18, 19

Calendar

Shop Stewards help restore the balance of power, and union solidarity gives workers a voice. Wages can be covered if you are on the clock.

Become a Shop Steward.

Visit yeu.ca/stewards or email shopcor@yeu.ca



We have new Staff!**Ed Dufour***Senior**Labour Relations Advisor*

My union journey really began after I finished six years in the Canadian Armed Forces, which I joined straight out of high school. When I transitioned into a job with Manitoba Justice, I became a member of the Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union (MGEU). After years in the Army where decisions were made for you and you had little say over your working conditions, I was genuinely curious about how unions worked and what member representation looked like.

I attended my first local meeting and, to my surprise, was elected as a steward. I quickly discovered how meaningful it was to stand up for my co-workers and represent them in meetings. After serving as a steward for two years, I was elected Local President, a role I proudly held for 14 years. Along the way, I also had the opportunity to serve one term on the MGEU Board of Directors.

Eventually, I was hired as a Staff Representative (LRA) with MGEU, where I spent six years advocating for members' rights and supporting locals across the province. I then took a two-year break from labour relations to work on a program supporting veterans experiencing homelessness, a role that was incredibly important to me personally.

Not long after, I came across a job posting with the YEU. I asked my wife if she was ready for our next adventure in Whitehorse, and without hesitation, she said yes. Eight months later, here we are. I'm currently working in the Senior LRA position at YEU, and I couldn't be more excited about the work. One of my key goals at YEU is to strengthen the relationship between LRAs and the locals to be more accessible, more connected, and to serve as a strong support and resource for our members, stewards, and executive teams.



Newsletter

We have new Staff!



Eric Sivadas

Labour Relations Advisor

Growing up in an immigrant community in Ontario, the idea of having a strong working class became the backbone of my values: dignity at work matters, and people deserve fairness and equity. Early in life, I saw firsthand how intentionally confusing rules and fine print acted as tools to discourage people from action and speaking up—but I also saw how collective action was able to turn uncertainty into confidence.

For YEU members, I hope to bring the same approach and results I've built over the past seven years in the labour movement: helping protect members and ensuring they are heard and treated with dignity through focused and practical support—backed by clear advice and strong representation grounded in Collective Agreements, legislation, policy, and facts. That means helping all of you understand your rights, organizing the details, and advocating to ensure fair outcomes across the board.

Organized labour is the key to balancing power—and my goal is simple: to provide support so the workers who keep our communities running can do their jobs with confidence. Hopefully, together we can build better outcomes for everyone.



Jennifer Collon

*Membership Services
Intake Officer*

My name is Jennifer Collon, though many people know me as JC, and I've proudly called the Yukon home since 1997. I'm excited to join the labour movement because I believe deeply in dignity, fairness, and the strength that comes from workers standing together to create meaningful change. My background in social work, along with many years in Human Resources within the Yukon Government and the private sector, has shown me how profoundly workplace policies, culture, and conditions shape people's well-being. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to supporting workers.

In my Member Services role, I aim to ensure that every member receives clear information, timely support, and easy access to the resources available to them. My goal is for all members to feel heard, respected, and valued. Organized labour plays a vital role in creating balance within workplaces, ensuring that workers have strong representation and reliable protections.

I'm grateful to contribute to this work and remain dedicated to supporting and empowering workers across the Yukon.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY YEU IN THE PAST FISCAL YEAR

The Yukon Employees' Union has funded several social and political projects in 2025.

- **Laundry Project**
- **Yukon Rendezvous**
- **Hardship Funds**
- **Member Education**
- **Town Of Watson Lake Spring Break Program**
- **PSAC Regional Women's Committee**
- **Available Light Film Festival**
- **Pan African Group Donation**
- **Yukon Queer Film Alliance**
- **Labour Day BBQ**
- **Christmas Stocking Donations**

YEU Education Committee

On behalf of the Yukon Employees' Union, we are thrilled to recognize your commitment to your community and your union by awarding you one of this year's bursaries.

We deeply appreciate not only your application but also the solidarity and dedication you bring to our union family. Whether you live in Whitehorse or in one of our remote Yukon communities, your involvement is what makes us strong.

We want to emphasize how important it is to keep having those conversations in the workplace, talking to your coworkers about the union, organizing petitions, engaging in workplace actions, becoming a health and safety representative, and having discussions with management, etc. That's where the work really starts and how we build a fairer working environment together.

Solidarity is more crucial than ever in this era of precarious work, rapid technological change, and shifting political climates. By staying involved, attending union meetings, becoming a committee representative, and keeping those lines of communication open, you help show everyone that the union is an integral part of securing fair working conditions.

PUBLIC LAUNDRY NIGHT

Made possible through YEU funding and member volunteer time, along with support from Wykes' Your Independent Grocery

YEU
Yukon Employees' Union

EVENT DETAILS:
FAMILY HOTEL LAUNDROMAT
314 RAY ST. WHITEHORSE, Y1A 5R3
TIME: 6PM TO 9PM

DATE
JANUARY 13TH
FEBRUARY 10TH
MARCH 10TH

Bursary Winners

PSAC NORTH CONVENTION

The 10th North Regional Triennial Convention of the Public Service Alliance of Canada will be held at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in Whitehorse, Yukon - beginning Friday, May 29 and concluding Sunday, May 31, 2026 - under the theme, Uniting Workers' Voices for a Stronger North.

YEU Delegate Allocation

Y010	9
Y011	2
Y012	1
Y013	1
Y014	1
Y017	7
Y018	1
Y019	1
Y021	1
Y024	1
Y025	2
Y027	1
Y030	1
Y034	1
Y038	1
Y040	1
Y042	1
Y043	1
Y045	1
Y046	2
Y048	1
Grand Total	38

More Details



Letter from Y017 President



HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH
 YEU LOCAL Y017
 HANDS ON THE YUKON



Hello,

Presently, Local Y017 has 1,498 members, of whom 95 still need to sign their Union Card, which can be found on any of the workplace Union Boards. Having a signed card gives you access to several discounts available to Union Members and a free \$10,000 life insurance policy. Go to <https://www.yeu.ca/members> to see the discounts available.

I would like to welcome and thank some Local Y017 members for taking the training and becoming Shop Stewards: James Digel (Home Care), Kathy Donnelly, Sarah Kehler, and Tim Milsom (Emergency Medical Services), and Kirstan Byblow (Transitional Support Services). If anyone is interested in becoming a Shop Steward, please contact your Local President, who can explain the process.

I encourage members to attend and let their name stand for one of the Executive Board positions at the Local Y017 Annual General Meeting on Thursday, March 5. Posters are on all workplace Union Boards. Members will vote on paying extra dues for the Local President to continue working full-time at the Union, the Local Y017 Executive Budget 2026/27, the Local Y017 Executive Board Honorarium, and Executive Board positions: President, 1st Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Board Member positions. Options for attending are in-person or virtual.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our Local this year and to all our Bargaining Team Members for their dedication and commitment to making our workplace better. I look forward to continuing to work with members until our Local Annual General Meeting. I will be away from January 10 until February 1, 2026.

In Solidarity,
 Darcy Kasper
 Local Y017 President

YEU Component Leadership



- **Justin Lemphers – YEU President.**
 - Email: jlemphers@yeu.ca
- **Lisa Vollans-Leduc – YEU Vice-President.**
 - Email: vicepresident@yeu.ca
- **Julie Abel – YEU Communities Vice-President.**
 - Email: vpcommunities@yeu.ca

Staff List

- **Tammy Vaughan**
Executive Director
◦ Email: tvaughan@yeu.ca
- **Ed Dufour**
Senior Labour Relations Advisor
◦ Email: lraed@yeu.ca
- **Delanie Payne**
Intake Advisor
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- **Molly Swain**
Labour Relations Advisor
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- **Rafsan Jugol**
Director of Communications
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- **Lindsay Miller**
Executive Assistant
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- **Roseanne Elias**
Director of Finance & Admin
◦ Email: relias@yeu.ca
- **Jen Kiess**
Shop Steward Coordinator
◦ Email: shopcor@yeu.ca
- **Eric Sivadas**
Labour Relations Advisor
◦ Email: lraes@yeu.ca
- **Jennifer Collon**
Membership Services Intake Officer
◦ Email: membership@yeu.ca



Workplace Concerns?

Please fill out the membership intake form if you are having workplace issues.



This will help us best attend to your needs

Have Questions?

Email: contact@yeu.ca
Phone: (867) 667-2331

Newsletter Feedback?

Please contact YEU leadership with your feedback

Mailing list Sign up

