



Invitation for Applications to the PSAC North Union School

Building Strong Northern Locals

September 25th – September 27th, 2018

Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre

Whitehorse, Yukon

What is the Union School?

Union training at its best! The Union School is open to all members – it provides you with a unique opportunity to gain knowledge and skills while networking with other members from across the North Region.

Great conversation, learning and developing relationships with members from across all three territories will energize you so that you are prepared to return to your workplaces and locals; ready to empower other members!

Our Theme

The theme for this year's school is ***“Building Strong Northern Locals”***. Our goal is to provide participants with opportunities to gain knowledge and skills to build capacity within the local at both a beginner and advanced level.

Where and When is the Union School?

We are excited to be holding the union school on the shared traditional territory of Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. The North Union School will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon, at the beautiful Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre. <https://kwanlindunculturalcentre.com/>

The school will take place from Tuesday September 25th to Thursday September 27th. Registration will begin Monday evening, September 24th from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Kwanlin Dun Centre. Registration will be open again on Tuesday morning from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. The school will begin 9:00 am Tuesday and will end 5:00 pm Thursday September 27th.

There will be a meet and greet for participants with Regional Executive Vice President Brother Jack Bourassa at Kwanlin Dun Centre, Monday September 24th from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. Participants can register and then attend the meet and greet.

Accommodation

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Days Inn, Whitehorse, Yukon for all union school participants. Rooms and taxes will be paid directly by the PSAC for all participants.

What courses are being offered?

The North school will offer five courses that will provide fundamental skills for members that will assist in engaging the membership at the local level; as well as assist with the day to day running of the local. Members will participate in one course during the union school. Please indicate your order of preference for the different courses available to you. Every attempt will be made to respect your preference. Leadership training is available for Regional Council members.

INTRODUCTORY LEVEL

TALKING UNION BASICS – A Northern perspective

This is the Union’s key “introductory” course that has been amended to add a northern perspective. If you have wondered what it means to be a Union member, how the PSAC works, and what happens to your union dues, Talking Union Basics provides answers to these questions. The course also introduces collective agreements, your rights as an employee and as a member of the PSAC. You will learn about the various ways you can become active within the Union and help build stronger locals in the Northern Region. We recommend that the Talking Union Basics course be taken before all other PSAC courses.

Open to: Members who have not taken the Talking Union Basics

CREATING RESPECTFUL WORKPLACES

This fast paced and interactive course will take you through the basic steps of creating and maintaining respectful work environments. Together we will identify the signs of an unhealthy workplace, look at underlying factors, gain an understanding of different forms of harassment and identify concrete solutions for creating healthier working relationships. We will examine what is meant by diversity and what measures can be used to make our workplaces more inclusive. We will also discuss strategies for increasing participation and our effectiveness on joint employment equity committees. With regard to harassment and bullying, we will look at the legal framework, policies and recourse routes. We conclude with a section on how to prevent harassment in the workplace bringing the course full circle.

Open to: Everyone

HEALTH & SAFETY CANADA LABOUR CODE PART II

This course, designed for Local health and safety activists, will provide participants with hands-on application of The Canada Labour Code Part II. Participants will practice interpretation and analysis of various parts of the act as they pertain to the workplace. There is a strong focus on key amendments to the act and how these changes should be applied and monitored. Learning activities cover such things as; changes to the Canada Labour Code Part II; duties and responsibilities of the parties; committee roles; and mobilization around occupational health and safety.

Open to: Members of units that fall under the Canada Labour Code

ADVANCED LEVEL

LOCAL OFFICERS ADVANCED TRAINING (LOAT)

The LOAT is open to Stewards and Local Officers. Participants learn to work together as a team to efficiently administer Local business and organize their member at the workplace. All aspects of effective Local including by-laws, the Executive, committees, meetings and communications will be covered. Participants will also learn how to use union-management consultation, collective bargaining and regional action as effective problem-solving tools.

Open to: Local Stewards and those currently in a Local Officer position.

Pre-requisite: The Talking Union Basics Course or Our Communities, Our Union, Our Rights, An Introduction to the PSAC for Indigenous Members

ADVANCED DUTY TO ACCOMMODATE

The goal of the Advanced Duty to Accommodate course is to develop our union's ability to provide effective representation on the duty to accommodate members with disabilities, at the Local level. By the end of the course, participants will know when the duty to accommodate becomes applicable; as well as the difference processes involving workplace accommodation for members with disabilities.

Open to: This course is for PSAC union representatives (stewards, local officers, etc.) who have steward training or experience with representation.

Pre-requisite: Talking Union Basics, or Our Communities, Our Union, Our Rights, An Introduction to the PSAC for Indigenous Members.

Preference: will be given to applicants who have also completed a Grievance Handling course and/or a Duty to Accommodate course.

REGIONAL COUNCIL

LEADERSHIP TRAINING – REGIONAL COUNCIL

This course will bring together members from Regional Council to develop skills in leadership, effective communication as well as building the union. Participants will also look at ways of sharing power and responsibility as elected officers.

Open to: Members of Regional Council only

Language:

Activities in plenary will be conducted in English. If you require simultaneous translation, or ASL interpretation, please complete the accommodation form attached to the application form.

Selection Process:

Participant selections will be made with a view to have equitable representation from Components, as well as the North Region's three territories. We also seek representation from the 5 equity-seeking groups (racially visible members, members with disabilities, LGBTQ2+ members, women, and Indigenous members), as well as from members who are young workers. Consideration will also be given to past union, community, and social justice activism.

School Schedule:

The school will officially open with an Elder opening and a plenary Tuesday September 25th at 9:00 a.m. Courses will begin immediately after lunch. All participants are expected to attend all sessions during the school.

The Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre has a striking outdoor firepit overlooking the Chu Nínkwän (Yukon River). This is an ideal spot for evening activities, as well as campfires, sing a longs, and story-telling. We invite you to bring along any musical instruments, songs to share, spoken word poetry, etc.

Meals and Incidentals:

Some meals may be provided at the North Union School. Meals not provided at the school will be covered in accordance with PSAC rates. Meals and incidentals while participants are travelling to and from the school will be covered in accordance with PSAC rates.

Wages:

Actual loss of salary will be reimbursed for all working days lost for the travel to and attendance at the PSAC North Union School.

Members who are accepted to the North School will need to request leave for union activity to attend the school.

Family Care:

Costs incurred for family care during the North Union School will be reimbursed in accordance with the PSAC Family Care Policy, which can be found at <http://psacunion/family-care-policy> .

Transportation:

Travel arrangements will be made from your regional office and will be discussed with participants.

Scent Free

All PSAC events are scent free and participants are asked to use unscented products. The PSAC Statement on Scent Free environments is included for your reference in the application form.

Harassment Free

All PSAC events are harassment free environments. The PSAC Statement on Harassment is included for your reference.

How do I apply?

Please complete the attached application form and send it to the Administrative Assistant in your regional office.

Nunavut members please send your completed applications to the Iqaluit Regional Office Administrative Assistant, Brenda Shaimaiyuk at ShaimaB@psac-afpc.com

Northwest Territory members please send your completed application to the Yellowknife Regional Office Administrative Assistant Tara Boyd at BoydT@psac-afpc.com

Yukon members please send your completed application to Whitehorse Regional Office Administrative Assistant Shawna Dalley at dalleys@psac-afpc.com

Deadline for applications to the PSAC North Pan Northern Union School is July 31st.

Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted.