

Activities of the REVP North

Collective Bargaining

Following nearly six months of tense and rigorous strike action, PSAC was able to negotiate a fair contract for 32 Town of Hay River employees. The new contract closely resembles PSAC's initial offer at the table. It required a combined effort from PSAC and Union of Northern Workers staff, the generosity of Locals from across the country and the grim determination of our members to see the strike through to the end.

In July, more than 140 members from Qulliq Energy Corporation, Nunavut's primary electricity supplier, voted to begin strike action to for a cost of living wage increase. Initially, the Government of Nunavut refused to consider returning to bargaining,

but the perseverance of members soon shone through, and three weeks later, the GN proposed an offer that was ratified by a majority



of the membership, ending the strike in its fourth week.

PSAC is working closely with members from the Hamlet of Fort Resolution (about 9 hours south of Yellowknife), who are considering serious changes to their current pension plan. Following a successful

first round of bargaining, workers from the Village of Fort Simpson were quickly able to reach a new collective agreement with their

employer, serving as a strong reminder to other nearby units of the power of meaningful bargaining.

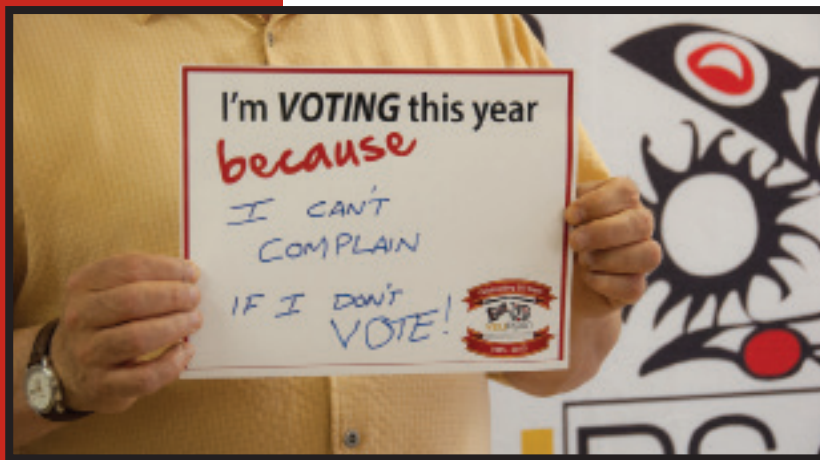
Political Action and Mobilization

Considerable work has been invested with Area Councils in Yukon and Northwest Territories to organize

phone banks in the territories. The objective is to contact PSAC members in the region and inform them of the cuts to public services made under the Conservative government, as well as to ensure they are registered to vote and

PSAC collaborated with Alternatives North, the unofficial opposition to consensus government in the NWT, to organize an all-candidates debate on issues of labour, child care, good jobs and retirement security. The event is scheduled for mid-September and will be open to the public.

While the PSAC avoided direct involvement in the debate itself, our staff assisted in drafting labour-friendly questions for the candidates and helped with background logistics.



YEU I Will Vote Campaign

are aware of their polling station. Nunavut is a key riding in this election and considerable efforts have been invested to ensure Nunavumiut take to the polls this election to unseat Leona Aglukkaq. Newspaper advertising is still the most effective way to reach the public in major centres, and the emphasis has been to blanket community newspapers with Vote to Stop the Cuts messaging.

In Whitehorse, PSAC Regional Representatives have drafted labour-related questions for candidates in the Yukon and have asked each candidate to respond, with the results to be published on our website and social media.

PSAC staff and members across the North are preparing for a massive final push on September 19th, the final day of action before the federal election.



PSAC North Regional Office staff and the REVP's office have joined in weekly teleconferences to discuss strategies and best practices, as well as taking part in bi-weekly election strategy sessions with PSAC offices across the country.

PSAC is supporting the Yukon Employees' Union with their "I will vote because..." campaign, an innovative approach to addressing election issues by allowing members to express the reasons they'll cast their ballot in the federal election. Labour Day BBQs have been organized in all major centres, as an outlet to encourage members and the public to vote in the federal election. All venues include voter registration kiosks where anyone interested can confirm their registration status.

Targeted regional newspaper advertising has pinpointed key public service issues that affect our members in select ridings and aim

to sway undecided voters come the election on October 19th.

Members have been offered election training in the Yukon, in conjunction with the Yukon Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress, to prepare members for canvassing, volunteering to support a campaign or becoming an active and informed voter.

Campaigns

PSAC North continues to develop

campaign through restocking food banks in struggling communities and assisting food banks in remaining sustainable through the creation of fundraising programs and applying labels to store shelves that inform shoppers of needed items.

The next stage is to form a Northern Food Insecurity Coalition, linking together food banks and not-for-profit organizations across the North to share common goals,



the Healthy Apple Campaign, which seeks to address food insecurity in Northern communities. We've launched the initial steps of our

combine decades of experience and discover ways to alleviate food insecurity. The group will also focus on lobbying municipal, territorial

and federal governments to support Northern families.

PSAC North is working to support the Yellowknife Living Wage campaign, which is lobbying to achieve a living wage of \$20.90/hour for the average working adult. This is the wage calcu-

lated by economists to cover the costs of shelter, food and clothing with Yellowknife's high cost of living.

The NWT Area Council, Aboriginal Peoples Committee and Women's Committee are working closely to achieve its goals.



Jack Bourassa,
REVP North
Public Service Alliance of Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Bourassa', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

