

The YUSA Times

YUSA 1 Ratifies New Contract

By: Sylvia Bosch-Karas

On April 29th the YUSA Bargaining Committee was able to reach a tentative agreement with the employer. No one could have anticipated on that 1st day of bargaining on June 18th last year that ten months later we would still be bargaining. By a strong majority the membership ratified this agreement on May 11th and we now, for the first time ever, have a 4 year contract which will take us to the end of July 2018.

Since the pay increase is retroactive, the bulk of our members will see a pay increase for the next three pay periods. First in June you will receive

the first 1 ½ % pay increase. July's cheque will bring 10 months of retroactive pay from August 2014 to May 2015 and then as August brings us into the 2nd year of the contract, another 1 ½ % wage increase will appear on your cheque. For members that are on any type of leave (sessional leave, maternity leave etc.) in July, your retro pay will be held until you return from leave so that there are no complications/ issues with Employment Insurance (EI).

Thanks to the Bargaining team for all their hard work over the last year, so much work goes into negotiating a contract of this size. In 2014 alone there

were over 20 prep days as well as 20 bargaining dates with the employer, so the equivalent of two months. Thanks as well to all the members who showed their support and solidarity during this entire process.

Both YUSA and the employer currently have draft copies of the collective agreement and are in the process of trying to arrange dates to review the documents to make sure everyone is on the same page. Once that process is complete a final draft will be sent to the printers and of course put up on the YUSA website. Can't wait to see the new colour!

Report Hazards in the Workplace

By: Sonny Day & Paula Gowdie Rose
YUSAPUY JHSC Co-Chairs

You can help to keep the campus safe for everyone by reporting hazards to your manager, area Health and Safety Officer, JHSC member or HSEWB. This includes any hazards you might spot as you walk around campus or through other buildings. Did you know that in Canada the leading cause of injuries in the workplace is trips and falls? To help prevent an injury to you or a colleague please remember to keep your workplaces free of trip hazards as best you can. Store boxes on shelving or in a cabinet, not on the floor, run cables in such a way that they aren't across walk

ways, make sure the computer cables under your desk are not hanging around your feet and are tucked up and away, report ripped or frayed carpets. Other ways to help could be as simple as reporting things like spills in a hallway, an icy sidewalk or even a build up of snow near an entrance that needs to be stepped over.

Musculoskeletal injuries (MSDs) or repetitive strain injuries (RSI's) are the second leading cause for workplace injuries. Both of these statistics also hold true for the injuries most often reported at York University. Health, Safety and Employee Well-Being (HSEWB) has developed an interactive tool to help you im-

prove the set-up of your workstation. For many people the set-up of your workstation will not be static, you may need to adjust your chair and keyboard tray throughout the day as your posture changes. The YU link for this self-assessment tool can be found here: <https://yulink.yorku.ca/group/employee-resources/ergonomics1> If you have further questions you can contact HSEWB at ext. 55491 or hsewb@yorku.ca. If you are starting to experience pain in the workplace please report it right away to your manager and see your doctor. MSDs are preventable but are difficult to recover from so please be proactive about adjusting your workstation to suit you.

Have a great summer and stay safe!



Coming Down the Line

Important Dates:

- ✓ **Convocation**
June 12th—June 19th
- ✓ **YUSA BBQ's**
Glendon Campus:
June 17th
12:30pm—1:30pm
- Keele Campus:**
June 24th & June 25th
12:00pm—1:00pm OR
1:00pm—2:00pm

Tickets for the BBQ will be distributed:
June 11th, June 12th,
June 15th—June 19th, &
June 22nd

In an effort to make the BBQ run more efficiently, it has been decided that "YUSA Swag" will not be distributed at the BBQ, as in previous years. A distribution area will be set up in July. Members will be notified of distribution dates when they are announced.

- ✓ **Pan Am Games**
July 10th—July 26th
- ✓ **Parapan Am Games**
August 7th—August 15th
- ✓ **Rogers Tennis**
August 8th—August 16th

Get YUSA(cated)!

Retired YUSA Staff Attend the 7th Annual Retirement Luncheon

On Wednesday May 27th, retired members of the York University Staff Association gathered for the annual Retirees Appreciation Luncheon. The event was held for the first time at the Paul Helliwell Centre in Osgoode, where 107 retired members enjoyed lunch and conversation.

The annual event which was hosted by YUSA was once again a great opportunity for many of the retirees to share stories and catch up with past co-workers. It was obvious from the stories that many shared, that retirement has certainly not slowed them down. Many members talked about volunteering, travelling the world, spending time with grandchildren and of course pursuing new interests.

As always this event is a great opportunity for YUSA to recognize their contributions to building both the University and the staff association.



Welcome to Filomena Weatherill, YUSA's new Administrative Coordinator

A note from past president Joanie Cameron Pritchett

Greetings,

I am just writing this note to provide a quick update and to convey my heartfelt appreciation to all of the members who contacted me, sent me a note/card and or kept me and my family in their thoughts and prayers. These past 18 months have been very challenging and with any challenges in life, there have been tremendous opportunities for personal reflection and growth.

I am very happy that I took time away from York in 2014 to spend time with my family and to help my mom care for my father, who was battling cancer. I was able to assist my mom in getting my dad to and from (where they live just north of Barrie) his medical appointments and treatment at Princess Margaret. During these long drives, I was able to share difficult moments but also hear stories and anecdotes from my parents' past and experiences they shared as they reminisced. There were tears for sure, but there was also a lot of laughter and silliness.

I was also able to take my parents to Kirkland Lake in November, which was my dad's last road trip so that he could visit his brother's grave. It was a trip that I will be forever grateful to have taken. These are the moments that we can never replicate and were precisely why I had chosen to step away in 2014 and be more present and accessible to my family.

In the end, my dad passed away this past January. It was a very difficult time for our family and the past 6 months have been a tremendous adjustment for our family dynamic, which is forever changed.

I am very grateful to the membership for their support and kind wishes – it has all contributed to the healing process.

I have been back in the bargaining unit working in Admissions since January and now that some time has passed, I am ready to serve as a steward and worker member on the Health and Safety committee.

I look forward to assisting the membership as needed.

With thanks,
Joanie

YUSA Times Contest Winner

Congratulations Rodney Chan! Winner of the \$25 VISA gift card. It was a pleasure to meet and surprise Rodney on Wednesday, June 3rd. Rodney works in the Steacie Science & Engineering Building as an Enterprise Data Warehouse Analyst. Rodney was quite surprised when he finally came to meet us and was presented with his gift card. He couldn't believe his luck! Rodney was the selected winner from many correct entries.

Q. What is YUSA's Anniversary Date?

A. December 10, 1975

Q. How old will YUSA be as of January 1, 2016?

A. 40 Years Old

The Communications Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the YUSA Times Contest.



Contributions & Comments

If you want to have your say, or have questions, contact us. Si vous voulez avoir votre mot à dire, ou avez des questions, contactez-nous!

Email/Courriel: yusatimes@gmail.com