



Communiqué

To UNW Members who are GNWT Employees

May 12, 2016

Three days of negotiations this week with the Government of the Northwest Territories ended on a disappointing note, with little productive discussion at the bargaining table.

“We’re discouraged that the Employer did not engage in meaningful negotiations on several non-monetary issues,” said Todd Parsons, President of the Union of Northern Workers.

Your UNW bargaining team worked hard to present the Employer with a comprehensive package containing the Union’s outstanding issues and responses to the Employer’s demands.

Unfortunately, the Employer dismissed most of the Union’s demands, either on the grounds that they were monetary – even though several of those “monetary” proposals have non-economic elements – or by saying NO without any real explanation.

Bizarrely, the Employer also withdrew – again without explanation – its own proposal on e-performance (Article 35 – Employee Performance Review and Employee Files) despite providing an extensive PowerPoint presentation to the Union at our last bargaining session, and after the Union had, in good faith, offered a thoughtful counterproposal.

The Employer also offered our members zero increases for the first two years of an agreement, but did so in a curious manner.

In a document given to the Union, the Employer said it is “unable to provide any form of monetary increases during the first two years of the new Collective Agreement” without actually mentioning it to the bargaining team at the table.

Your Bargaining Team will continue to fight for reasonable wage increases for GNWT employees, increases that keep up with inflation. Your bargaining team is considering its next steps. Please continue to visit www.unw.ca/government-nwt for further developments.

In solidarity, Your Bargaining Team,

Todd Parsons, UNW President
Michael Arbuckle, Local 11
Marie Buchanan, UNW 2nd Vice President
Jason Card, Local 9 President

Melvin Larocque, Local 6 President
Rashmi Patel, Equity Vice President
Chris Potyok, RVP North Great Slave
Gail Lem, PSAC Negotiator