



February 3, 2017

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Box 1320, 4570-48 Street

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Honoured Members ,

I am writing to you today to thank you for the strong stance you took this week in support of Northern workers.

As you know, our members are facing a time of economic uncertainty. It has been nearly a year since the collective agreement expired. Numerous GNWT positions were cut in the last budget and even more are on the chopping block. Cuts to “vacant positions” are a red herring – the work from those positions have already been offloaded on other workers, contributing to more stressful workloads. Our members are questioning their future in the North, and how to their jobs and livelihood. Many are afraid to speak out for fearing of being the next one cut, or being disciplined. This is a very real concern, considering one of our Executive officers, who is entitled to promote union messages, was chastised for sharing facts on Facebook, and told it was a violation of the Code of Conduct.

We agree with regular Members of the Legislative Assembly that a budget which focuses on spending and growth is what we need right now. While we understand the government’s attention to investment in infrastructure projects, we seek a more compromised approach that prevents continued job cuts and reaffirms workers’ faith in the North as a place to work and support their families.

We encourage you to continue to stand in solidarity to protect quality jobs and programs in the North. Should you wish to talk to me in further detail, I would very much welcome the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Todd Parsons

President

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