



To: All UNW/PSAC Members at Hay River Health & Social Services Authority (HRHSSA)

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Contract talks held with the assistance of a federal conciliator on December 11 and 12, 2018, failed to result in a tentative agreement between the UNW/PSAC and the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority.

“We are more than disappointed that HRHSSA is still not taking the collective bargaining process seriously,” said Todd Parsons, President of the UNW.

“The Employer’s tone at the bargaining table was disrespectful and insulting,” said Parsons, who attended the talks with the elected Bargaining Team.

“After 18 months of negotiations, HRHSSA still has serious concessions on the table, and still wants to force two years of zero wage increases on its hard-working staff while offering very little in return.”

Inflation over the life of the proposed four-year deal is forecast at 7.6 per cent while the Employer has offered less than 4 per cent.

The conciliation period provided for under federal legislation ends on December 15, 2018. The UNW expects mediation could be held in early February.

The parties have also not yet reached an Essential Services Agreement, although a meeting to finalize ESA discussions is scheduled for early January.

UNW represents about 200 employees at HRHSSA. Another 200 UNW members at Northwest Territories Power Corporation and approximately 4,000 UNW members at the Government of the Northwest Territories have also been working without a contract for more than two years. The UNW is in a legal strike position at GNWT and NTPC. A strike vote has not yet been held at HRHSSA.

Please stay tuned for further developments.

In Solidarity,
YOUR BARGAINING TEAM
Heather Coakwell, President, UNW Local 21
Barb Holland
Ann Schreuders
Gail Lem, PSAC Negotiator