



## **UNION RENEWS CALLS FOR BINDING ARBITRATION, SERVES STRIKE NOTICE**

*“The premier must finally show leadership and act now to solve this dispute, before it’s too late”*

YELLOWKNIFE—After over three years of negotiations—and the government dragging its heels—the Union of Northern Workers (UNW) served strike notice today on behalf of public service employees at the GNWT.

The union is busy preparing a new comprehensive offer and, with the help of a mediator, will make a last-ditch effort to settle this dispute at the negotiating table.

“As we have said all along, we will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to avoid a strike. We even offered to sacrifice our right to strike, if the GNWT agreed to Binding Arbitration. An offer that still stands,” said UNW president Todd Parsons. “But our efforts at finding a compromise have sadly been met with dishonesty, stubbornness and heel dragging by the premier and his government.”

“As a result, we have served official strike notice today for strike action to commence as of 12:01 a.m. on Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. We have no choice left but to put maximum pressure on the government,” continued Parsons. “We urge the premier and the GNWT to finally take the demands of public service employees seriously and come to mediation next week in good faith, ready to work with us on a fair agreement. But make no mistake, if the government fails to do so there will be a strike.”

Today’s move follows weeks of the GNWT ramping up its efforts to intimidate public service employees, including a message to employees with incorrect salary increase numbers—falsely suggesting employees were going to receive 50% wage hikes over the next five years.

“Over the past few weeks we have seen the GNWT flat out lie to employees about their pay offer. This is clearly acting in bad faith and engaging in aggressive intimidation tactics,” said Parsons. “It’s unacceptable. The premier seems to think the GNWT can simply bully employees into accepting a bad deal, but we have news for him: Northern public service workers are strong, united and ready to take strike action, if forced.”

“Time has almost run out. We urge the premier to finally show some leadership and act now to solve this dispute, before it’s too late,” Parsons concluded.

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