



The Government of the Northwest Territories failed to reach a tentative agreement with the Union of Northern Workers in mediation talks this past week.

Mediator Vince Ready adjourned the talks late in the day on October 26, 2018, when it became clear that the parties are still far apart after almost three years of negotiations for a renewal collective agreement.

Job security and fair wage increases are the key issues at the bargaining table, said UNW President Todd Parsons.

“It is really a sad state of affairs when after all this time, the government still thinks employees should subsidize its overly-ambitious infrastructure plans,” Parsons said.

“Our members need a living wage and at the very least deserve wage increases that keep pace with inflation,” he said.

“The GNWT expects a \$200-million surplus this fiscal year, but it still expects its employees to accept a wage offer that can’t address cost of living increases. It’s outrageous and insulting and completely disrespectful to the employees who serve the people of the Northwest Territories.”

The UNW made significant movement on our proposals. And while the employer showed some willingness to move on some non-monetary issues, it was not enough to meet our mandate to protect union member job security. The employer also showed no willingness to provide wage increases that would address the cost of living in the North.

The parties are awaiting a report from the mediator. The mediator has 14 days to report. Please stay tuned for further developments.

### **Strike Training Dates and Locations**

We continue to be prepared. Strike training started in Hay River this weekend. Check back to our website and Facebook group, as well as emails to members, for further strike training dates and locations. All will take place in many communities ASAP.

Your UNW Bargaining Team  
Todd Parsons  
Josee-Anne Thibault  
Dawna O’Brien  
Marie Buchanan  
Melvin Larocque  
Gail Lem, PSAC Negotiator