



October 29, 2018

Bargaining Communiqué

To: All UNW/PSAC Members who are GNWT Employees

MEDIATION ADJOURNMENT

Mediation between the Union of Northern Workers and the Government of the Northwest Territories was adjourned by the mediator Mr. Ready on October, 26, 2018.

The UNW entered into mediation committed to working with the employer with the assistance of a mediator to ensure our members were well represented and heard with regards to our outstanding issues.

Your bargaining team is hard at work representing the issues that you brought forward that were important enough to you to provide them with a strike mandate. It is now time for you to show your continued support & solidarity for your bargaining team.

Although the UNW made significant movement on our proposals and the employer showed willingness to make some movement on some non-monetary issues, it was not enough to meet our mandate as set by the members to keep up with the rising cost of living in the north nor enough job security for our members.

During this round of mediation the two parties mutually agreed that there would be a black out on releasing any of the details that were discussed over the two-days in order to allow the mediator an opportunity to write his report. The union produced a communication to members in the spirit of honouring this mutual agreement. Unfortunately, the GNWT shared more specific details than we understood to have been agreed upon leaving some of our members to believe that the UNW was withholding information. We want to assure you that was not the UNW's intent.

The GNWT's choice to release specific details with regards to mediation talks is a sheer sign of their bargaining representatives only interest in representing the Premier and Finance Minister instead of the 4,000 employees that they should most value.

The UNW bargaining team is assembled to represent the best interest of its membership and we are committed to doing so as necessary. They are devoted members who are working tirelessly to do everything in their power to avoid a strike. **It is not the union's intention to strike before Christmas**; however we are in a legal position to begin strike action if we are provoked.

Union members are community members, and everyone wants to move ahead and work together to make the NWT a better place to live. The UNW Bargaining Team continues to be open to meeting with the Employer's Bargaining Team at any time, with or without the mediator, to reach a fair collective agreement.

In Solidarity,
Your UNW Bargaining Team

Todd Parsons
Josee-Anne Thibault
Dawna O'Brien

Marie Buchanan
Melvin Larocque
Gail Lem, PSAC Negotiator