



News Release

Power Corporation Employees Vote to Strike

February 8, 2018

Yellowknife, NT- Northwest Territories Power Corporation employees who are members of the Union of Northern Workers, gave a clear strike mandate to their bargaining team during strike votes held late last year.

The 91 % vote sends a clear message to both the bargaining committee-that the members clearly support them – and to the employer – that they are committed to fighting for better wage increases, improvement to the Location Allowance to better address actual northern living expenses, and job security protection.

“Our members have spoken, they are not happy and The Power Corporation needs to realize that their offer is just not acceptable by our members.” said Todd Parsons, President of the Union of Northern Workers. A strike vote does not mean that there will be a work stoppage at The Power Corporation. “ We are in fact trying to avoid a strike as we have yet to invoke all the provisions granted to us under the Public Service Act,” said Parsons. “We remain optimistic that the employer will come back to the table, and provide a fair and reasonable offer.

After three years of trying to negotiate a deal talks broke down last October after the UNW Bargaining Team presented a comprehensive offer to settle all outstanding items in order to reach a tentative agreement. The team emphasized priorities identified by UNW members during membership consultation meetings.

This offer was rejected by the Employer and they refused to make any movement to fair general economic increases, at 0%, 0%, 1% and 1% in a four-year agreement. As such, the UNW maintained our proposal for a 3.5% per cent increase in 2015 (which is what GNWT employees received in the same year) and 3% in each of the next 2 years of a three-year agreement.

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Editors Notes: For more information contact Jennifer Wright, Communication Officer, UNW at 867-873-5668, ext. 225.