



Media Release – For Immediate Release

February 2, 2017

UNW says enough with infrastructure investment over quality jobs

The Union of Northern Workers came out in defense of public service workers and proposed further job cuts by the Government of the Northwest Territories, after the Finance Minister’s statement this week on the 2017-2018 Budget.

These cuts are in addition to the ones just last year. The UNW is frustrated that quality job positions continue to be in jeopardy.

Union employees with the GNWT have remained without a collective agreement since March 31, 2016.

“The GNWT is moving in the wrong direction as they prioritize roads and bridges projects over securing the livelihoods of Northern workers,” said Todd Parsons, President of the UNW. “Further cuts will leave workers uncertain and the North a less attractive place for newcomers. We demand the government take a more balanced approach and compromise with the UNW.”

“Our members are scared,” added Gayla Thunstrom, 1st Vice President. “They want to live and contribute meaningfully in the North, and they are being treated like they are disposable.”

Earlier this week, regular MLAs held a press conference indicating they would fight to protect GNWT workers from potential job cuts. The UNW appreciates this effort and hopes to work closely with these members to ensure GNWT employees are valued and retained.

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