



**TO: All PSAC/UNW MEMBERS AT HRHSSA
BARGAINING UPDATE – March 13, 2019**

Dear Members:

Your Bargaining Team and HRHSSA spent three days in collective bargaining talks convened this past week by a federal mediator.

We are pleased to report that some progress has been made. Both parties were willing to explore compromises, and as a result, we have reached tentative agreement on a number of outstanding issues.

We are disappointed, however, that we do not yet have a new agreement for you to vote on.

Part of the reason we have not reached a new agreement is that the Employer failed to table a wage proposal.

The Employer bargaining team adamantly refused to make a commitment that it would match the wage increases that a mediator will be awarding to GNWT employees – even though they acknowledged that GNWT will provide flow-through funding to HRHSSA.

Your Bargaining Team has made it clear to our Employer that wage increases that are good enough for GNWT employees are good enough for us.

Besides wage increases, Northern Allowance, and term of the agreement, other major issues that remain outstanding include Medical Travel, access to certain medical services for mental health practitioners, and the establishment of a joint union-management committee to implement measures to support mental health in the workplace.

After considering the availability of both bargaining teams, the mediator is scheduling further talks for the week of June 10th.

Please stay tuned for further developments.

In Solidarity,
YOUR BARGAINING TEAM
Robb Ross, President, Local 21
Alvin Pitre
Sara Swanson
Anne Marie Thistle, UNW Director of Membership Services
Gail Lem, PSAC Negotiator