

Dear Member of the Legislative Assembly

Re: Collective Bargaining with the Union of Northern Workers

As you are well aware the Union of Northern Workers has been actively trying to negotiate collective agreements with the GNWT, NWT Power Corporation, and Hay River Health for some time now. The GNWT has set the mandate for all three bargaining units. In some instances members have been without a signed collective agreement for over three years. The failure of the employer to recognize the value of public servants and to come to the table with a mandate that would provide a framework for a settlement is extremely disappointing.

Northern workers deserve fair wages that at a minimum keep up with the rising cost of living and job security. The ability to secure indeterminate employment is becoming more and more difficult. People are struggling and with the continued increase in the cost of living many are choosing to move south. We ask the GNWT to compromise: invest in the public service workers too, not just roads.

The workers of this territory deserve better and as your constituent I encourage you to speak out during Legislative sittings in support of the over 4,000 members who are represented by the UNW and ask the Minister of Finance to give a mandate to the employer to go into mediation/conciliation that supports and respects public service workers, and to reach a fair deal.

The Government needs to live up to their responsibility and to set an example because if they don't we will have more families in the north struggling, and less people choosing to move here. Is this the legacy that you want your government to leave for our children?

Signed;

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Signature