



Bargaining Communiqué

Six cents an hour. That's the increase the lowest-paid GNWT employees would receive in the first year of a new contract, under the Government's opening wage offer.

The Employer's offer – 0.25% in each of the first two years of a new Collective Agreement, followed by a wage increase of 1% in the third year and 1.25 % in the fourth year – was tabled in negotiations with the UNW the week of January 16, 2012.

The GNWT's bargaining team complained that the North's economy is being negatively impacted by the financial upheaval in Europe.

"We realize this is an opening offer," said Todd Parsons, President of the UNW. "But it's an insult to our members, especially considering that inflation was about 3.2% last year."

Despite saying that it understands that it needs to "look for ways to improve work-life balance for all employees," the GNWT has also tabled several concessions that could severely disrupt family life. For example, the Government wants to remove the references to hours of work in Article 22 that limits the standard hours to between 8:30 AM to 5 PM. **This means that office hours could be changed to begin much earlier in the morning and run late into the evening.**

Your Bargaining Team has told the Employer that **we do not intend to negotiate concessions.** We go to the bargaining table to improve wages and working conditions, not to create hardship for our members.

Your Union has proposed wage increases of 3.25% in each year of a 3-year agreement, as well as modest improvements in Northern Allowance, in keeping with cost-of-living increases.

Please continue to check the UNW website for future updates. We are back at the bargaining table February 27, 2012. Click the message box on www.unw.ca to tell us what you think of the Employer's proposals or email us at gnwtbarg2012@unw.ca