



Media Release – For Immediate Release

October 2nd, 2017

UNW/NTPC Talks Break Down

As we approach the third anniversary of the expiration of the last negotiated contract, Union employees with NTPC remain without a collective agreement

“It has been clear from the outset that this Employer is taking its marching orders from the GNWT,” said 1st Vice President and bargaining lead Gayla Thunstrom.

Last week, the UNW Bargaining Team presented an 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.

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These priorities focused on;

- better job protections
- an annual review of subcontracts for quality and cost effectiveness
- addressing working conditions for members who work extended shifts in remote locations
- improved financial and ethical accountability through safe disclosure protections

This offer was rejected by the Employer.

The Employer 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.

“The Government has posted approximately \$100 million in surpluses in the last two budgets and are spending 100% of this on roads,” said President Todd Parsons. “Maybe they could compromise and spend a small percentage on economic increases for their workers, so they can keep up with the cost of living in the north.”

As an impasse appears to have been reached, the Union is starting to hold strike vote meetings in various communities in the coming weeks starting with Inuvik October 2nd and 3rd.