

After 100 Days on Strike Iqaluit Housing Authority Workers Remain Strong



For Immediate Release: Iqaluit, June 27, 2023: Iqaluit Housing Authority (IHA) workers have now spent 100 days on strike. The Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) and the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) North say striking workers remain determined to secure a meaningful deal, despite the employer's refusal to provide reasonable wages, withdraw proposed cuts to maternity and vacation leave as well as failing to properly recognize the importance of Inuktitut in the workplace

"I admire the resilience of these workers in fighting for fair wages and better working conditions," says Josee-Anne Spirito, PSAC North Regional Executive Vice President. "They are holding the employer accountable and fighting for the employer to do the decent thing and recognize the rights of these workers. PSAC North stands in full support of their fight."

The NEU and PSAC North say given the high cost of living in the North it is essential that wages keep pace with inflation, something the employer has refused to commit to. PSAC North says that as the workers continue their strike they are joined in solidarity by unions across the North and that the labour movement stands united behind their cause.

"The support from other NEU Locals, Unions and labour organizations has been impressive and very appreciated by IHA workers on the picket line," adds Jason Rochon, NEU President. "What is also impressive is the strength, resolve and solidarity that these NEU Members have shown over the last 100 days."

The NEU and PSAC North are also reiterating their calls for immediate action to end the use of replacement workers during the strike and say that Federal Labour Minister Seamus O'Regan must intervene immediately to bar the use of replacement workers. They say legislation must be developed to end this practice permanently across all three territories. The unions say the replacement workers at the IHA are taking work away from local Inuit people. This effort includes an <u>online email campaign.</u>

"The cost of living in Iqaluit has dramatically increased over time, more so in the last year. We are looking for a fair increase in salaries to be able to afford the increasing cost of living. A deal will not be possible if it means the deterioration of our current benefits and salaries that are making it hard for current staff to remain working at Iqaluit Housing", says Nicky Nauyuk a plumber at IHA and a PSAC/NEU Bargaining Team Member.