

GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT (GN) BARGAINING UPDATE TO DECEMBER 2019

On November 18, 2019 the Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) filed a Statement of Claim in the Nunavut Court of Justice asserting that the Government of Nunavut (GN) has engaged in bad faith bargaining.

The Statement of Claim legally outlines the reasons why the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC-North)/NEU Bargaining Team feels that the GN has not lived up to its legal and moral obligation “to bargain in good faith with a view to the conclusion of a collective agreement.” The Statement of Claim provides the GN with 25 days from November 18, 2019 to either respond with a “Statement of Defence” or an “Appearance”. We will communicate what the next steps in this legal process are as soon as they become clearer. To view the Statement of Claim (in English only as this is a legal document) or the associated GN Bargaining Update (#6 - in English or Inuktitut), please visit www.neu.ca.

Please see the second page for a message from NEU President William (Bill) Fennell.

The Nunavut Employees Union (NEU)
Working for those that make Nunavut work

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Nunavut Employees Union



This publication is produced by the Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) for the purpose of informing NEU Members with news, updates and/or other items related to their NEU Membership. This publication does not seek to offer legal or other advice. NEU Members with specific inquires or concerns related to their employment or workplaces are encouraged to contact the NEU as soon as they can.

**NUNAVUT EMPLOYEES UNION(NEU) CONVENTION CALL
NEU EIGHTH (8th) Triennial Component Convention
October 6th through 9th, 2020
Iqaluit Nunavut**

Any NEU Member in “good standing” may be elected by their Local to attend the NEU Triennial Component Convention as a Delegate. A Member “in good standing” means that the Member has signed an application for a NEU and/or a Public Service Alliance of Canada Membership Card; has paid union dues within 30 days of the of the election process for Delegates; and is not under suspension at the time of the election process.

As per Bylaw 13 Section 5 of the NEU Bylaws, Locals have the right to elect Delegates to the Convention.

Convention Delegates will be expected to sit on at least one Convention Committee leading up to and during the Convention; and be a contact person for the NEU in their home community after the Convention.

More information will be sent to the Locals and directly to Members. If you have any questions, please email communications@neu.ca or call the NEU Head Office in Iqaluit at 867.979.4209 or toll free at 1.877.243.4424.

NEU Holiday Closures:

All Neu Offices will be closed starting on Tuesday December 24, 2019 and will reopen for regular business on Friday January 3, 2020. The NEU is aware that Members are working over the holidays. If an emergency situation should arise over the days the NEU is closed, please call 867.979.4209 (in Iqaluit) or (toll free from other parts of Nunavut) 1.877.243.4424 for instructions on how to get help or support during the Holiday Season.

Holiday Travel:

Wherever you Holiday Season travel takes you, the NEU wishes you a safe trip and joy and happiness upon your arrival. Before finalizing you travel plans, do not forget to check out the travel benefits available to you as an NEU Member at www.neu.ca (MEMBERS/BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS from the top navigation bar).

Local Bargaining News

Local 001

A tentative agreement on behalf of NEU Members working at the Kugluktuk Housing Association was reached on November 7, 2019.

The NEU would like to specifically thank Negotiation Team (and NEU) Members **Mary Ann Westwood** and **Ryan Nivingalok** for their time and efforts during the bargaining process.

Local 0015

A tentative agreement on behalf of NEU Members working at the Kugaaruk Housing Authority was reached on November 14, 2019. Bargaining Team (and NEU) Members **Yanina Pjuuardjok** and **Barnaby Immingark** deserve thanks and appreciation from the NEU and their co-workers.

A MORE RESPONSIVE, AVAILABLE AND 'LOCAL' NUNAVUT EMPLOYEES UNION



Anyone who calls Nunavut home – as I have had the pleasure of doing for more than 34 years – understands a challenge of this great Territory is distance and uniqueness. There

are many mutual concerns, strengths and issues that unite all the Nunavut communities that are home to around 39,000 people. However, with no two communities directly connected, it would be wrong to not recognize the unique cultural, geographical and economic differences that are unique to each community and region of Nunavut.

For more than five of the 34 years I have called Nunavut home I have had the honor and privilege of being President of the NEU and working with the incredible individuals that make up the Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) Executive. Part of the responsibility of each member of the Executive is to represent the area that they were elected from and to ensure that the NEU recognizes the unique concerns and issues faced by Members in those communities and regions. This must be accomplished within the framework of the overall issues that face the more than 4,900 NEU Members that make Nunavut work on the Territorial and municipal levels. Almost one in eight people who call Nunavut home also call the NEU their Union and that makes meeting their needs an important challenge and a great honor and privilege. The NEU, the Executive and I do indeed work for those that make Nunavut work.

The question is how do we meet the mutual and unique challenges and the answer is through strong and functioning Locals that properly represent the communities that they are based in. It also means maintaining a strong, professionally staffed and available Head Office in Iqaluit and Regional Offices in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet.

As per my vision and under the direction of the Executive, Rick Roberts, the NEU's first Vice-President has joined the NEU Head Office on a one-year basis to work closely with Joe Sageatook, the Nunavut Education/Service Officer to form more effective and responsive Locals.

Under this important initiative, we have established new Locals in Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset and Resolute Bay. Prior to this, Members in these three communities were part of a larger Iqaluit-based, pan-Baffin Local. These new Locals (subject to official confirmation by the NEU Executive during a meeting scheduled for the week of December 9th) will better represent their respective communities and Members. This will be accomplished by having locally-based Officers who are in a better position to understand, represent and be more available to their fellow Members who are also their neighbors and fellow community members. This is a large part of my vision and the Executive's desire to make the NEU more accessible, local and responsive.

To better strengthen the NEU's ability to represent Members, we have also hired a new Iqaluit-based Service Officer, Stephen King and moved Joe Sageatook to the new and important role of Education/Service Officer. We are also in the process of hiring a new Cambridge Bay based Service Officer to replace Lori Morina who retired after almost eight years of excellence serving NEU Members.

We will continue to develop community-based Locals and I look forward to telling you about this and other accomplishments on the road to a more responsive, available and Local NEU. I also look forward to presenting these and other accomplishments, as well as recognizing and meeting emerging challenges, at the upcoming 2020, NEU Eighth Triennial Convention (see the first page of this newsletter). Please watch your email, the NEU Website and the upcoming NEU newsletters for more details about this Convention and the NEU's strategy and my vision for the NEU.

In solidarity,
William (Bill) Fennell President,
NEU



This is an updated/shortened version of the President's Message posted to the NEU website on November 20, 2019.

To view the original message, please visit www.neu.ca (President's Message from the QUICK LINKS on the NEU Home Page).



In the December 2018 NEU Newsletter, we ran a feature section entitled "The IMPORTANCE OF WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY TO YOU". The purpose of this was to highlight the importance of this issue in NEU workplaces. In the earlier part of 2020, the NEU will be running a campaign related to this important issue to further inform our Members as well as to bring this topic to the attention of other workers who call Nunavut home. Under the direction and guidance of NEU Executive Member Jason Rochon (Secretary) we look forward to sharing more details

with you after the Holiday Season. From me to you and those that matter to you, I wish you a healthy, safe and joyous Holiday.

William (Bill) Fennell President, NEU

