



Working for those that make  
Nunavut work

## **Press Release: Nunavut Employees Union Elects New President and Executive**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 14, 2021 – Iqaluit, NU-** At the recently held Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) eight Triennial Convention delegates elected Jason Rochon of Iqaluit the NEU President for a two-year term starting October 7, 2021.

“It is an honor and a privilege to become the new NEU President,” says Rochon who takes over from William (Bill) Fennell who had served as President for two terms. “This is a time to continue what was done well by the previous Executive as well as to look for new ways to do things.”

The NEU Triennial Convention was originally scheduled to be held in October 2020, but was postponed for a year due to COVID-19 related public health safety concerns. This meant that Fennell and the other Executives served an extended, four-year term instead of the regular three-year term. Rochon has been elected to serve as NEU President for the next two years until the next NEU Triennial Convention in 2023.

The NEU represents more than 5,000 Territorial workers who are the civil servants working for the Government of Nunavut (GN), municipalities, housing associations, Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Pimaksirvik Corporation.

“About 80 percent of our Members work for the GN, including many front-line health care and other workers who worked selflessly and tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,” states Rochon. “Our goal is to ensure that all Members, wherever they work, go to work each day in to a workplace where they are treated fairly and with respect and are compensated properly for the roles that they play in serving the citizens of Nunavut.”

GN workers have been working without a renegotiated Collective Agreement for more than three years and the NEU has sued the GN for Bad Faith Bargaining.

“The GN’s dishonest and disrespectful approach to Collective Bargaining and their employees is a clear demonstration of why the NEU’s role in protecting and representing civil servants throughout the Territory is more important than ever,” explains Rochon. “In the next few days, we will be sharing with our Members and the public how it is clear that the GN never intended to bargain in good faith or approach talks with the NEU in a manner that shows any respect to GN employees, the NEU or the population of Nunavut who are Members serve so well.”

Also elected to the NEU Executive at the Triennial Convention held October 5-7, 2021 in Iqaluit were:

- Rick Roberts (re-elected) as First Vice-President; Mike Kaiyogana as Second Vice-President;
- Josh Long as Secretary; and Allison Coman as Treasurer.

Faith Mautaritnaaq was elected as Alternate Second Vice-President and Jean Pudnak was elected Alternate Secretary. Completing the Executive are Regional Vice Presidents Noel Collins, Ruth Kaluraq and Joyce Laprise.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank (past President) Bill and all past Executive Members for their service to the NEU, NEU Members and Nunavut,” says Rochon. “I look forward to working with the new Executive for the benefit of all NEU Members and the greater good of Nunavut that comes from having well-treated and respected civil servants.”

*The Neu is a component of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). [www.neu.ca](http://www.neu.ca)*

**Media Inquiries: James Kaylor Communications Officer Nunavut Employees Union**

**Cell: 867.222.2436 Email: [james@neu.ca](mailto:james@neu.ca)**