



Media Release

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Workers at Qulliq Energy Corporation Are On The Picket Line For Fair Cost Of Living Increase

July 24, 2015 Iqaluit - Workers at Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) are refusing to be bullied by misleading facts recently distributed by the Government of Nunavut and the Corporation and are standing together for a fair cost of living increase.

“GN/QEC recently released a joint communique that contains misleading information.” says Imoe Papatsie, Secretary of the Nunavut Employees Union, “We’d like to set the record straight.”

The Nunavut Government’s own website lists the CPI in the territory as 1.9%, not the 1.0% figure the Corporation has quoted (1). This is a territorial average that does not take into account the fact that costs in more remote communities are higher than in Iqaluit.

“No matter how you slice it, GN/QEC’s offer of 2%, 1%, 1%, 2% over four years will not keep up with the growing cost of living in the North.” continues Papatsie, “GN/QEC management appear to be predicting a lower CPI over the next four years. The only thing that is certain is more bonuses for management.”

While it is true that under the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, salary increases in government and at QEC are tied to NEU increases, this does not change the fact that The Nunavut government paid out more than \$300,000 dollars in performance bonuses to deputy ministers and heads of Crown corporations in 2012/2013 (2).

“GN/QEC conveniently forgets that 75% of Canadian unionized workers did receive a negotiated wage increase in 2013. Employers across the country see the value in paying workers fairly and studies show that a large portion of those wages goes straight back into their communities.” says Jack Bourassa, Public Service Alliance of Canada Regional Executive Vice President for the North,

“Workers at QEC deserve a fair cost of living increase. We call on the employer to return to the table and negotiate a fair deal now.”

Sources:

- (1) <http://stats.gov.nu.ca/en/home.aspx>
- (2) <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/nunavut-department-crown-heads-got-300k-in-bonuses-in-2012-1.2654620>

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