



## Media Release

July 13, 2015 – For Immediate Release

### **QULLIQ ENERGY CORPORATION WORKERS TO BEGIN STRIKE ACTION Set to strike across Nunavut July 16**

Workers at Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) – which supplies electricity to communities across Nunavut – have given notice of strike action to begin Thursday, July 16 at 12:01 a.m. EST.

The union has done everything it could to prevent a strike, but the employer has continually refused to reasonably negotiate a fair contract.

Members from Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) Local 007 will be on the picket line Thursday morning at QEC locations across Nunavut unless a deal to avert the strike is reached beforehand. Workers overwhelmingly supported strike action in a vote taken March 2. Conciliation following the strike vote failed to produce an agreement.

Members voted to reject the employer's last offer during a vote held June 16<sup>th</sup>.

QEC employees have been in a legal strike position since March 2015, but have not served notice before now in the hopes of reaching a reasonable deal.

The union has continually proposed progressive solutions to avoid a strike which have been outright rejected by the employer.

“QEC’s management has dropped the gauntlet and given us no choice but to take strike action,” said Bill Fennell, President of the NEU. “Their legal counsel has told us they’re is ‘just waiting to see us go on strike,’ showing a clear lack of respect for a meaningful negotiating process.”

“This isn’t bargaining, it’s simply bullying.”

Negotiators from the Public Service Alliance of Canada have been in contract talks with QEC for more than 18 months. Members are seeking a fair wage that meets the high cost of living in Nunavut.

“Our negotiator is ready and eager to get back to the table and work out a fair deal,” says Jack Bourassa, Regional Executive Vice President North for the Public Service Alliance of Canada. “Our two sides aren’t far apart and there’s still time to resolve our differences to avoid disrupting Nunavut’s power distribution.”



Qulliq Energy Corporation workers provide mechanical, electrical and line maintenance for all QEC facilities, with administrative offices in Baker Lake and Iqaluit and customer service offices in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

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