

News Release

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Bargaining begins between GNWT and UNW

Yellowknife -- On December 5, the Government of the Northwest Territories began negotiation of a new collective agreement with the Union of Northern Workers (UNW).

"I'm very positive about the approach we're bringing to the bargaining table," says Debbie DeLancey, Deputy Minister of Human Resources. "Government employees are the engine that allows the GNWT to achieve its goals. That's why we are looking forward to working with the UNW to finalize an agreement that is effective and affordable."

The GNWT's initial proposals focus on four distinct areas:

1. Our goal is to develop a sustainable public service - one that balances the need to invest in our public service with the need to remain fiscally prudent.
2. Our government needs to be competitive in pay and benefits with other employers, especially in western and northern Canada.
3. We recognize that cost of living is a concern for all northerners, including our employees.
4. We need a collective agreement that works for managers and employees - one that is clear and understandable, and treats employees fairly and equitably.

The GNWT and UNW meet December 5 – 7 to begin negotiations, with negotiations continuing in the new year. The GNWT will be accountable and transparent throughout the bargaining process, with proposals and updates available to the public on the GNWT website at

<http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/bargaining/default.htm>

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