



**Nunavut Employees Union  
BARGAINING UPDATE  
Iqaluit Housing Authority  
July 2023 (02)**



**NO REAL MOVEMENT IN IQALUIT HOUSING ASSOCIATION AND NUNAVUT HOUSING CORPORATION POSITION IN MEDIATION - PROFOUNDLY DISAPPOINTING AFTER 124 DAYS ON THE PICKET LINE**

The Nunavut Employees Union (NEU)/Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) North Bargaining Team met with the Iqaluit Housing Authority (IHA) representative in a mediation session on Friday, July 21, 2023, in Ottawa. The Union presented a reasonable path for reaching a tentative agreement, achieved in discussions with the mediator that day. This path represented a significant movement of the Union Bargaining Team in an effort to reach a deal. The IHA representative refused it, offering only a slight wage increase in a future year that does not even come close to addressing the current or future economic reality of working and living in Nunavut. The mediation session, which was the first face-to-face meeting between the two parties since the labour impasse began in March, lasted barely two hours. It is clear to the Bargaining Team that IHA had no intention to reach a deal.

After 124 days on the picket line, the Union was profoundly disappointed at the IHA and NHC's position clearly demonstrated during the mediation session. IHA and NHC are actively holding up any deal by not even engaging with the Union's revised offer which involved significant movements.

IHA and NHC have prolonged this strike unnecessarily by locking out the workers, hiring scabs, not recognizing the workers' value and simply not doing the right thing. It is shameful and disrespectful to workers, their families, the Union and Nunavut.

The members have exercised their right to go on strike and after 127 days on the picket line (as of July 24), remain strong in their position of not accepting an unfair agreement.

"We did have some hope that the first meeting in person might get us closer to reaching a fair agreement and we were willing to move on some of our positions to achieve that," says Nicky Nauyuk a plumber at IHA and a NEU/PSAC North Bargaining Team Member. "But in just two hours, it became clear that the IHA is not interested in reaching a fair deal or showing any respect to the IHA workers or the residents of IHA housing. It was incredibly disappointing and disrespectful."

The Union remains committed to reaching a negotiated settlement as it has for the past 127 days.