



**Nunavut Employees Union
BARGAINING UPDATE
Iqaluit Housing Authority
July 2023 (03)**



Changes to Iqaluit Housing Authority Board Seen as a Positive Development

July 28, 2023: On day 131 of walking the picket line, workers at the Iqaluit Housing Authority (IHA) are encouraged by the news from the Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC). Hearing that the IHA board has been replaced and that the purpose of this change is to address the labour impasse is a positive development.

The Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) and the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) North, who represent IHA workers, have been calling on the NHC and the Minister responsible for the NHC to pay attention since the beginning of this labour dispute.

“NEU really appreciates that workers on the picket line are finally being heard for what they’re saying, not just for the noise they’re making,” said NEU President Jason Rochon.

There was some hope going into a bargaining session on July 21, but nothing came of it.

“Last Friday’s session in Ottawa was really disappointing,” said Bargaining Team Member Nicky Nauyuk, who is a plumber with the IHA. “The IHA negotiator was only looking for us to cave. It was two wasted hours. I’m hoping it will be different when we meet again. We’d like to get back to work.”

The NEU and PSAC North are ready and willing to get back to the table immediately. We are expecting to meet with the employer on Monday in Iqaluit. After over four months, it’s time.

“We believe that today’s development is a good sign, but the proof will be in what happens at the table,” said Rochon. “We’ll be there in good faith because we believe there is a path forward. We want to reach a fair agreement as quickly as possible.”

“IHA workers have been fighting for their rights with resolve and with a strength that is an inspiration to the entire labour movement,” said Josee-Anne Spirito, PSAC North Regional Executive Vice President. “We are encouraged by this news, which is the first positive sign of a recognition of how long this impasse has been going on. No matter what happens next, PSAC North and our allies will continue to stand with IHA workers in solidarity.”