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Public Service Alliance of Canada
Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

Iqaluit Housing Authority Workers Vote to Ratify New Collective Agreement

For Immediate Release: Iqaluit, August 1, 2023: The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) North/Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) are pleased to announce that Iqaluit Housing Authority (IHA) workers voted to ratify a new Collective Agreement early this afternoon. The new five-year agreement takes effect upon ratification and will expire on June 30, 2025.

“First and foremost, I want to say that this agreement would not have been possible without the incredible resilience, resolve and dedication of the IHA workers who were on the picket line for 136 days,” says NEU President Jason Rochon. “We appreciate that the intervention of the Minister Responsible for housing and the Nunavut Housing Corporation allowed for meaningful negotiations that led to a fair agreement. For the future, we call upon the Minister and the NHC to recognize their inherent responsibilities at a much earlier stage to keep any other Local Housing Organization negotiations from going off the rails.”

In addition to fair wage increases, the new deal includes:

- An increase and preservation of bonuses for IHA workers who speak Inuktitut in addition to English and/or French;
- Unpaid and paid days for traditional Inuit Cultural pursuits;
- New professional development leave;
- One additional week of maternity leave allowance;
- The addition of National Truth and Reconciliation Day as a paid holiday;
- Increases to apprentices’ rates of pay; and
- Five paid and five unpaid days of family violence leave.

“The NEU is committed to encouraging all employers across Nunavut to recognize the importance of Inuit traditions, culture and language in the workplace,” adds Rochon. “I would like to thank Bargaining Team Members Nicky Nauyuk and Pauloosie Gordon for their time and efforts in getting an agreement done that will serve as a model for future agreements based on the recognition of the true value and identity of local workers.”

After 136 days on the picket line, IHA workers are looking forward to getting back to what they do best – serving their community and the people who live in IHA-maintained housing.

“It was a long, hard fight and I am proud of how we stood our ground and fought for a fair deal,” says Bargaining Team Member Nicky Nauyuk, who is a plumber with the IHA. “We fought for what is fair and right and for the future of providing those living in IHA housing with the service and support they need and deserve.”

"This group of workers fought hard for their rights against a disrespectful employer and history will remember that," says Josee-Anne Spirito, PSAC North Regional Executive Vice President. "The labour movement thanks them for securing this agreement and for demonstrating their strength. Their victory is not only a victory for all PSAC workers but sets a precedent that will have ramifications for the entire labour movement. The commitment and solidarity these workers showed, spending 136 days on strike, sends a clear message to employers across the country that we will not stop until workers' rights are secure."

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