

Bearnet Communication to the Employees February 5, 2019

On Tuesday, February 5, 2019, the Union of Northern Workers (UNW) served notice of their intention to strike at all Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) work sites commencing on February 11th, 2019 at 12.01 a.m.

The UNW's decision to serve notice of intention to strike significantly impacts all employees and the public. The GNWT will be entering the February 8-9, 2019 mediation with the sole focus of reaching a new collective agreement and believes all outstanding issues can be resolved through negotiation.

With the UNW's decision, should no deal be reached in mediation, the UNW will be on strike on Monday, February 11, 2019. As such, GNWT departments and agencies will be implementing their Job Action Contingency Plans without delay.

Essential & Emergency Employees

All employees who have been provided with Essential and Emergency Services letters will be receiving further communication from their supervisors regarding schedules, hours of operations and reporting to work protocols.

Non Essential or Emergency Unionized Employees

All unionized employees who did not receive an Essential or Emergency Services letter, will be placed on strike leave effective February 11, 2019. Please leave your GNWT issued laptop, cell phone, credit cards, and keys/fobs at your workstation prior to leaving the workplace on Friday, February 8 or at the conclusion of your last shift prior to February 11, 2019.

If you are a unionized employee and there is a strike, you may want to work. Unionized employees who are considering coming to work during job action and who have not been deemed Essential or Emergency, are encouraged to discuss their choice with their union representative. If you would like to come to work during job action you must contact your most immediate non-unionized supervisor. If you choose to report to work, you may need to cross a picket line at the beginning or end of your work day and your supervisor will discuss with you the protocol for doing so.

Further information on employee benefits and other implications of job action will be provided later this week. If you have any additional questions or concerns please contact your most immediate non-unionized supervisor.

David Stewart
Secretary to the Financial Management Board
Deputy Minister Department of Finance