



MEDIA RELEASE

9 April 2018
For Immediate Release

City of Whitehorse Mediation Dates Set

Union & Employer to Meet Following Essential Services Negotiations.

Mediation between the City of Whitehorse and the Union representing its approximately 350 workers will take place on April 14th and 15th 2018, the Yukon Employees Union announced today.

YEU President Steve Geick states “our goal is always to reach a negotiated settlement. The City still has costly economic concessions on the table that the Union cannot agree to. We are hoping a dialogue with the Employer will help both parties find the compromises needed to avoid a strike.”

In an effort to avert a full-scale strike, the Public Service Alliance of Canada requested that the federal mediator convene weekend talks said YEU President Steve Geick. While the Union was seeking mediation dates as early as possible, an email from the City’s negotiator requested that talks not be held until mid-May. “We are pleased that the City has now agreed to come back to the bargaining table this weekend,” Geick said.

It was erroneously reported in the Whitehorse Star on Monday that an Essential Services Agreement between the parties is now in place. Although the parties have tentatively agreed to the maintenance of essential services, the agreement still needs to be approved by the Canada Industrial Relations Board. Until that time, any strike or lockout of the Union’s large local at the City of Whitehorse would not be legal.

The City did not identify any Transit services as essential. Local Y022, the smaller Local representing transit workers, has been engaged in a work-to-rule campaign since March 19, 2018. Drivers have declined overtime and have not accepted additional shifts, choosing to work only their scheduled shifts during this action.

Geick disputed comments made by a City spokesperson implying that summer day camps might be closed if there is a strike; “we believe an agreement can be reached swiftly, leaving these negotiations behind long before summer.”

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