



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Hospital Members Deliver Huge Strike Mandate

Bargaining Teams Return to the Table February 14, 15

Thursday February 7, members of YEU/PSAC's Local Y025 – Yukon Hospital Corp., gave their bargaining team a very strong strike mandate. A strike vote held at well-attended meetings throughout the day showed an overwhelming majority of workers are prepared to strike if necessary. That clear direction is sure to guide and strengthen the team as they face their employer again this week.

The meetings allowed the elected bargaining team to explain the tenor of the talks to date, and outline the employer's offer. The key issues for members in this round are workload, and the contracting out of hospital services. Chronic understaffing has been worsened by expanded hospital services, and employee burn-out is endemic across hospital departments.

The employer indicated some time ago that they did not wish to extend the period of conciliation talks. This means that both parties are in a legal strike position; either party could serve 72 hours' notice of strike or lock-out at any time.

Roughly 250 workers in Whitehorse, Dawson City and Watson Lake are represented by the Yukon Employees' Union and the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

Contract talks will resume Thursday and Friday, February 14 and 15, in Whitehorse.

For Information, contact:

Steve Geick, President
Yukon Employees' Union
Office: 867-667-2331
Cell: 867-335-2631

Jack Bourassa,
Regional Executive Vice President, North
Public Service Alliance of Canada
Office: 867 – 669-0991 Cell: 867-444-0846