



## News Release

### **Nunavut Employees Union breaks off negotiations with Government of Nunavut**

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (November 14, 2000)** – The Government of Nunavut announces that the Nunavut Employees Union chose to break off negotiations for a new collective agreement today.

Minister of Finance and Human Resources, Kelvin Ng said, “The Union indicated that it wanted to spend a week negotiating a new form of northern allowance for Government of Nunavut employees. However, after the Government of Nunavut presented its proposal for a Nunavut Northern Allowance, the Union took the position that the parties were too far apart.” The union had previously applied for the appointment of a mediator.

The Government of Nunavut’s proposed Nunavut Northern Allowance formula included a transportation allowance equal to the cost of four trips for each employee from that employee’s community to a southern destination (Edmonton for the Kitikmeot region, Winnipeg for the Kivalliq and Montreal/Ottawa for the Baffin communities). Implementation of this new Nunavut Northern Allowance would result in increased allowance payments of between 15% and 59% for all union employees, depending upon the employee’s community of residence.

“We had hoped to talk with the Union about the mechanism for implementing this new allowance, but unfortunately, they chose to break off negotiations instead,” Minister Ng said.

Minister Ng was disappointed the union chose not to respond to the wage offer that was included in the Government of Nunavut’s initial monetary offer, presented on October 2, 2000.

“We believe that we provided the union with a very fair initial offer,” he said. That offer included a 10.25% increase in wages over 39 months including a 3% increase retroactive to April 1, 2000.

The Government of Nunavut’s offer also included parental leave without pay for 12 weeks, increased shift differential and standby payments, and increased allowances for certain professional employees.

“It has been our vision from the outset to work with the Nunavut Employees Union to create a made-in-Nunavut collective agreement, and it saddens me that the union has chosen this route instead,” Minister Ng added.

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#### **For further information contact:**

Garry Pinto, Director of Labour Relations  
Department of Human Resources  
Government of Nunavut

☎ (867) 975-6200

☎ (867) 975-6220

Email: [gpinto@gov.nu.ca](mailto:gpinto@gov.nu.ca)