

May 28, 2018

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darlene_mandeville@gov.nt.ca Bob_McLeod@gov.nt.ca

Honourable Wally Schumann
 Minister of Industry, Tourism & Investment
 Government of the Northwest Territories
 PO Box 1320
 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Honourable Robert McLeod
 Premier
 Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dear Mr. Schumann and Mr. McLeod,

Re: Dominion Diamonds – Lay offs and Contracting Out

As you know, Dominion Diamonds has approached the Union of Northern Workers and has threatened to lay off over 150 unionized workers from the Ekati mine site. These jobs are primarily entry level, surface mining support positions, and **we believe over 80% are northern workers.**

The Employer has stated that there is an “absenteeism” problem. However, they have provided no data or information on what they consider absenteeism. The Collective Agreement has provisions in it for the Employer to manage such types of situations. There are articles addressing different types of leave, as well as discipline. The Employer should be dealing with any individual problems as they arise and on a case by case basis, instead of unfairly penalizing an entire workgroup.

The UNW is fighting urgently to protect our members and their jobs. If there is a mass lay off, it will adversely affect not just the individuals, but also their families and communities – and indeed the territory as a whole. Layoffs of this magnitude disregard the spirit of the Socio-Economic Agreement and Impact and Benefit Agreements.


Many of these members are your constituents. The Union is asking that the Government of the Northwest Territories speak out in support of the workers of the North, and exert political pressure on this employer.

I recently visited the mine with PSAC National President Chris Aylward, and three of the Tlicho Chiefs, including Grand Chief George Mackenzie. The UNW and the Tlicho Government are working closely together to reverse the decision by the mine to lay off workers.

We talked to many members and they are very angry and scared. The members have asked me to send you a request: They would like to invite you, Mr. Schumann and Mr. McLeod, to come to the mine site and talk to them about how you and the GNWT will stand up for northern and indigenous workers.

If you would like discuss, please contact my Executive Assistant Caitlin Lacey by email at [laceyc@unw.ca](mailto:lacey@unw.ca) or by telephone at 867-873-5668 ext 229. Our office can also set up a meeting for you with UNW Local 3050 members upon your request.

Sincerely,



Todd Parsons
President
Union of Northern Workers

Cc: Members of UNW Local 3050
Tłjchq Government