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 Building *Nunavut* Together  
*Nunavut* iuuqatigiingniq  
 Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble



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 Qulliq Energy Corporation  
 Société d'énergie Qulliq  
 Qulliq Alruyaktuqtunik Ikumatjutiit

# News Release

For Immediate Release

## QEC and GN clarify misinformation by the NEU

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (July 22, 2015)** – The Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) and the Government of Nunavut (GN) are clarifying misinformation the Nunavut Employees Union's (NEU) is providing to their members and the public.

The cost of living increase in Nunavut is averaging about 1 per cent each year. QEC is offering a six per cent wage increase over four years (2 – 1 – 1 – 2).

The average wage increase for contracts ratified in 2013 was only 1.4 per cent, the lowest average since 1997. Additionally, more than 25 per cent of Canadian employees covered by agreements negotiated in 2013 received no wage increase. In comparison, QEC is offering a six per cent salary increase over four years, with no benefit decrease.

Reports that Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) recently gave themselves a three per cent raise are inaccurate. Under the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, MLAs' salary increases are tied to NEU increases. From 2011 to 2013, MLAs and other GN employees received a 6.5 per cent increase to their salaries, including the three per cent in 2013. During the same time period, QEC employees also received a 6.5 per cent increase to their salaries.

During the course of the strike, QEC will continue to provide services to customers, and are prepared to deal with emergencies and disruptions to power as they arise. QEC remains open and willing to meet with the union in an effort to resolve this dispute.

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## QEC negotiations – Fact sheet

### 1. Across the country, public sector spending is going down.

- The average wage increase, over the life of contracts ratified in 2013, was only 1.4 per cent, the lowest average since 1997.
- More than 25 per cent of all Canadian employees covered by agreements negotiated in 2013 received no wage increase.
- In Ontario, 179 public sector agreements were settled, with wage increases averaging 0.3 per cent.
- In Alberta, 17 public sector agreements were settled with an average wage adjustment of 0.9 per cent.
- The federal is reducing employees sick leave benefits.
- Most QEC employees receive a higher salary than their Northwest Territories counterparts, without including northern allowance, heavily subsidized housing and other benefits.

### 2. Reports that Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) recently gave themselves a three per cent raise are inaccurate.

- MLAs received a three per cent increase to their stipend in 2013. They didn't receive an increase in 2014 or 2015.
- Under the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, MLAs' salary increases are tied to Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) increases.
- NEU (and MLAs) received a 6.5 per cent increase between 2011 and 2013 (1.0 – 2.5 – 3.0). During the same time period, QEC employees received a 6.5 per cent increase (2.5 – 2.0 – 2.0), plus a \$1,100 signing bonus.

### 3. The NEU says wages are not keeping up with the cost of living increases.

- The cost of living in Nunavut – as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Iqaluit – grew by about one per cent each year between 2009 and 2014.

- Canada and Nunavut are in a period of low and stable inflation – the cost of living in Nunavut is high, but is not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.
- QEC’s offer of a six per cent wage increase over four years (2 – 1 – 1 – 2) averages above the cost of living.

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