

On behalf of our members, we are writing to share our frustration on an important issue that is affecting our community and the people we serve. As you know, our members work hard to deliver services and take care of our parks, buildings, and landfills. They also take care of the ice in arenas, and have been ready and willing to do so, despite the regional district's public insistence that the delay was due to the uncertainty of potential job action by our union.

We understand that direction has now been given to begin making ice in Valemount, and that McBride is still waiting. The community impact of the delay in ice making was absolutely unnecessary. From the union's perspective, strike action is always the last resort. Our bargaining committee has been doing everything in our power to negotiate a fair agreement without a disruption to services.

Throughout bargaining, our committee brought constructive proposals and a willingness to work toward a resolution that meets the needs of both workers and our communities. Workers in this region—whether they are employed by the City of Prince George, the District of Mackenzie, or the Regional District of Fraser Fort-George—deserve basic respect in the workplace, and a wage that makes it possible to afford basic necessities in the communities they live in and serve.

The path to a resolution is simple: return to the bargaining table and negotiate a fair contract that is in line with what other municipal workers in our region have already negotiated. Negotiate a fair agreement so that the workers of your district are not lost to other communities who recognize the value of their work. Negotiate a fair agreement so that, together, we can keep our district running smoothly and deliver the services we all care about.

Respectfully,

CUPE 1699