



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
OTTAWA, CANADA  
K1R 6A6

Todd Parsons  
President of the Union of Northern Workers  
Yellowknife  
March 27, 2006

Mr. Parsons,

First of all, I would like to applaud the unionized workers at the Ekati Mine for their principled and strong stand on the negotiations that are taking place for their work site. The rejection of the offer put to you over the last month comes as a result of your recognition of the need for significant change in the workplace. This workplace is run by one of the major multinational mining corporations in the world, exploiting a non-renewable resource owned by Canadians. This is a highly profitable and tightly controlled workplace.

You as workers have stood up for your rights to a workplace run on Canadian labour principles, with recognition of hard fought for rights of fair wage packages, seniority, and pay equity. You are standing up for all Northern workers and for the future of a progressive labour movement in the NWT.

On behalf of the New Democratic Party, and as Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic, I would urge both the Company and the Workers representatives to return to the negotiating table to come up with a fair deal for our northern workers; a **"Made in Canada Labour Agreement"**. For too long, in the Diamond industry in the NWT, Northerners have simply accepted what is being handed to us. Your collective stand on these principled issues that govern your workplace, is admirable.

I will be following the ongoing negotiations with a great deal of interest. So many of the issues affecting labour in the NWT are legislated by the Government of Canada. As required, I will be meeting with your leadership to coordinate the approach taken in Ottawa through our party and our Labour Critic, Bill Blaikie. We are very concerned about the use of replacement workers in any job actions. The NDP has supported anti-scab legislation in the previous Parliament and we will continue to do so in this one. I look forward to other opportunities to support you in events like you are conducting today.

In solidarity,  
Dennis Bevington MP  
Western Arctic