



09-12-16

Bruce Valpy
Managing Editor
Northern News Services
PO Box 2820
Yellowknife, NT
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Dear Mr. Valpy:

Re: Editorial Inuvik Drum – Councillors grill Roland

I would like to provide additional information regarding questions asked of Premier Roland by Inuvik Town Council concerning the Corporation's hiring practices and reported in a recent edition of the Drum.

Councillor Kurt Wainman *"voiced his frustration over the power plant hiring outside of Inuvik to fill management and mechanic positions."*

Inuvik is the corporation's regional centre for the Thermal Region. Managers in the Thermal Region have responsibility for plants in the Beaufort Delta, Sahtu and Deh Cho. Staff in Inuvik is required to travel extensively due to the large area being served.

Before arranging for management, mechanics and linemen to travel to Inuvik to provide services the corporation made numerous efforts to fill the positions with staff that would reside in Inuvik. We could not find anyone with the required skills. We are continuing to try and recruit mechanics and linemen to Inuvik in addition to the apprenticeship programs we run to try and develop staff. Until we are successful we have no choice but to continue with the existing arrangement in order to provide service to the community.

If we can't find anyone qualified to reside in Inuvik we are required to look at other options to ensure we can provide service not only to Inuvik but to all the thermal plants in the region. In this case our option was to hire managers who, although they reside in Hay River, regularly spend a significant amount of their time in Inuvik.

Many northern employers are dealing with a skills shortage for both trades people and professionals. NTPC is one of them, but we're continuously taking steps to balance the situation. Whenever possible we implement apprenticeship, mentoring and training programs aimed at developing a made-in-the-north work force. We want to see our young people succeed and stay in the North. At the same time as we're developing a work force we also have to get the work done. That often requires an extra effort for extended periods by our existing employee group, to keep electricity flowing and the lights on around the Northwest Territories. We're proud of their contribution. We hope to have a Director for the Thermal Region residing in Inuvik by July 2010.

Yours truly,

Mike Bradshaw
Director, Corporate Communications