FNUniv APT Negotiating Committee Report

As reported at the Fall General Meeting URFA was attempting to have the FNUniv Board of Governors meet to provide the management team with a mandate so that negotiations could begin.

In an attempt to bring the University to the bargaining table, URFA applied to the Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety indicating the parties were at impasse and requesting a special mediator be appointed. The parties met with the Executive Director Labour Relations and Mediation branch in the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety. This meeting was not successful. The President of the University was unable to guarantee a mandate would be forthcoming from the BOG in the near future. In an attempt to move the situation along more quickly, URFA filed an unfair labour practice complaint against the University in early January. After the complaint was filed the University legal counsel wrote to URFA legal counsel guaranteeing a mandate from the BOG when they met at the end of January.

A mandate was forthcoming and the parties met for the first time on February 14th. The meeting started with a traditional smudge. It was agreed that interest based bargaining would be used, the ground rules were reviewed and further dates provided. As a result of bargaining starting, the Unfair Labour Practice complaint has been withdrawn.

The parties also agreed that the interest based bargaining should be facilitated by the Department of Labour and Mediation. The department was contacted and a facilitator named. The parties now have 14 dates booked between now and the end of April.

First Nations University APT Bargaining Committee

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