

Media Bulletin - From the Fort Simpson Picket Line - October 19th 2005

- **Rowe's Construction refuses to meet with the Government appointed Mediator.**

In an effort to end the Ferry lockout in Fort Simpson, the Federal Minister of Labour appointed a Mediator and talks were scheduled for October 19th and 20th. On Monday morning, October 17th, the Union was informed by the Mediator that Rowe's Construction refused to attend and talks were called off.

This in spite of the fact, Owen Rowe, Owner of Rowe's Construction continued to tell the community his company would participate.

Questions about Rowe's handling of the Ferry operation and the obvious violations of the Government contract are being raised by residents of Fort Simpson.

- **Community officials raise concerns about Ferry safety.**

Allegations are being raised that the Ferry is not being operated with proper safety procedures. These allegations are being made by senior members of the community who have personally witnessed obvious violations on the Ferry.

Questions are being asked about public safety on the Government owned ship.

- **Community firmly behind locked-out Ferry workers.**

The community is questioning the use of scabs to run the Fort Simpson Ferry. Not happy with the situation, community members denounce the abuse to the community Rowe's is forcing on Fort Simpson by using scabs to run the Ferry.

People are questioning why the law allows outside workers to take local community jobs, cause division and then leave. "It is time anti scab legislation is introduced", stated a local resident.

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