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PRESIDENT
Sharan Burrow
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Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Public Service Alliance of Canada

Brothers and Sisters,

During the recent visit to Canada by a delegation from the Australian Council of Trade Unions, we learnt of your union's struggle where over 475 diamond workers at the BHP Billiton – Ekati mine, who are members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, are involved in a strike after many attempts to reach a first-time collective agreement.

We bring fraternal greetings and support from all Australian workers who themselves are struggling to have worker's rights and collective agreements respected. BHP is well known for refusing to allow its employees to collectively bargain and has refused to bargain in good faith with unions.

The workers of the Ekati mine are fighting for justice for workers in Canada and around the world. The industrial environment in Canada is different to Australia and as far as we can see BHP would like to be seen as a good corporate citizen in Canada. The opportunity exists to make history and achieve a decent agreement for workers and all residents of the Canadian North.

We wish BHP-Ekati workers in the Canadian North the strength and the resolve to continue this struggle and to prevail. The stakes are high and we send you our solidarity in your determination to achieve a fair agreement.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Burrow', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sharan Burrow
ACTU PRESIDENT