

## Hay River – May 9

Maria Eva Villate touched the hearts of all who attended the event in Hay River last night. She was well received, and as all but one person were striking diamond workers, she requested to hear from them. Spouses and members shared freely their situation and frustration with BHP. Two brothers from the Yellowknife line, Jess Howie and Paul Betsina, who are working temporarily in Hay River, were welcomed warmly and they shared their experiences with her as well. Linda Yu, a reporter from The Hub newspaper, was taking notes as well as pictures throughout the evening.

Maria Eva shared how the stand that the members are taking gives hope to trade unions everywhere, and most especially in her country. Upon hearing this, the members replied that they felt a sense of hope in hearing of the struggles that her people endure and still persevere in standing up to Trans National companies.

An invitation was extended and accepted for Louise Casselman and Maria Eva to join the picket line at the airport at 5:30 Wednesday morning. Some of the members got Maria Eva to autograph the solidarity posters.

The handouts for the social justice fund were avidly read and carried home, the members now have a clearer understanding of what it means, both to them and to workers around the world.