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## PRESS RELEASE

### **BTL and BCWU Sign CBA**

*Belmopan. May 4, 2021. 3:15 p.m.*

On Friday, April 30, 2021, the Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) and the Belize Communications Worker's Union (BCWU) signed a four-year collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for 229 BTL employees.

The BCWU and the management of BTL negotiated provisions to maintain and enhance the good relations that exist between the company and the employees of BTL in dealing with the unprecedented labour and commercial challenges brought about by COVID-19.

Mr. Ivan Tesecum, CEO of BTL, and Mr. Mark Gladden, president of the BCWU, signed the CBA. Hon. Ramiro Ramirez, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government, congratulated Mr. Tesecum and Mr. Gladden for the timeliness with which the CBA was concluded and the spirit of goodwill and collaboration that prevailed throughout the negotiations. The Minister further noted that the agreement will enhance the productivity of the employees through harmonious industrial relations.

Also present at the signing ceremony were Mr. Valentino Shal, CEO in the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government; Ms. Anne Marie Thompson, Labour Commissioner; Mr. Mark Lizarraga, BTL Chairman; Ms. Jolene Avila, BTL Human Resources; Mr. Mark Bowman, BCWU General Secretary; and Mr. Emerson Castillo, BCWU Trustee.

The Ministry continues to work closely with employers and employees throughout the country to promote good industrial relations, fairness, impartiality and tripartism for the benefit of all.

**Ends**