



5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table



Our union currently negotiates over 120 contracts on behalf of 40,000 members!

Our three largest Components – the Provincial Civil Service (about 14,000 members), Health Care Support Services (about 8,000) and Community Support (about 5,000) – are currently in various stages of negotiations.

Ratification Round-Up

I'm happy to report that after a number of final ratification votes in March, all members of our Health Care Support Services Component (which includes health care aides in dozens of hospitals and personal care homes throughout the province) now have a new five-year agreement. It was a long and difficult round—like all other government-mandated workplaces, employer reps wouldn't budge from a wage freeze in the first two years—and my thanks goes out to the Bargaining Committee, who went above and beyond in their efforts to represent their fellow members with patience and determination.

One of our newest groups – Local 423, Pinaow Wachi Personal Care Home in Norway House – just ratified their first MGEU collective

agreement, while members who work with youth at Knowles Centre and assist seniors at Riverwood Square, as well as the support staff of Seine River School Division, all voted to ratify new agreements in March.

Hit "Play" for your Update



If you're interested in where Provincial Civil Service negotiations are at, check out my first-ever "Let's Talk Bargaining" video update, now playing on our MGEUTube channel. We look forward to regularly posting these for our bigger groups. Next up to be recorded: Community Support.

Strike Watch

Members of WRHA Community Programs (Local 220), many of whom administer and schedule our province's home care program, delivered a strong strike mandate to their Bargaining Committee in January. They remain in negotiations with their employer, who continue to insist on implementing a seven-day work schedule for all employees.

Members of St. Amant CRP (Local 178), who work with children and adults with developmental disabilities, also recently

Welcome to the first edition!

Each month, I'll be sending out this quick update highlighting some of our union's latest activities.

If you have any questions, please get a hold of me through our Resource Centre (204-982-6438 or 1-866-982-6438) or e-mail me at president@mgeu.ca.

voted for strike action. Their committee returned to the table with a strong strike mandate as negotiations continue.

Bargaining Check-Up

Is your Component or Local in bargaining these days? You're not alone! We're currently reporting on the work of thirty-three different MGEU Bargaining Committees at www.mgeu.ca.



Look for the "At the Bargaining Table" button (pictured right) on our home page. The page is updated regularly, so check back frequently for the latest bargaining news.

In Your Workplace



Social Worker Registration - Recently, many members who work in social work were told they must register with the College of Social Work by April 1, 2015 as a condition of their employment. We asked many questions about the process; met with management and politicians; and a staff team filed grievances to ensure members' concerns were addressed. As a result, the Province has reduced the number of members required to register.

Recruitment, lack of up-to-date equipment at VEMA - I've been meeting with decision-makers to rectify serious member concerns about the Vehicle and Equipment Management Agency (VEMA). Wages are so behind the private sector that recruitment and retention has become difficult, while a lack of investment in proper equipment has left mechanics unable to effectively do their jobs.

Is an employer decision or policy creating problems in your workplace? Let me know so your union can explore a solution!

MGEU Families Take to the Ice - This winter, MGEU families enjoyed a Family Fun Skate with their MJHL hockey heroes, while our 1st VP, Wayne Chacun, and Brandon members cheered on the Wheat Kings at an MGEU-sponsored game. These community events put our members in the public eye and remind Manitobans that we're not just employees – we're all Manitobans!

Heads-up: Phone Survey! - We're taking a random poll of members to find out more about our workplaces and how we can improve our union. The phone survey is being conducted this month by Viewpoints Research. If selected, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts.

The BIG Picture - I was in Vancouver this month for a national conference on the latest policies threatening pension plans around the country – because a secure retirement is important to all of our members. As a labour delegate, I also attended the UN Commission on the Status of Women, where I was able to share the perspective of Canadian working women and discuss critical issues facing our sisters around the world.

In The News



Want smart, innovative and patient-centred solutions? Listen to those on the front lines!

In a recent *Winnipeg Free Press* editorial, I put forward our paramedics' concerns that unless government takes a serious look at the problems of our current EMS system, and starts listening to paramedics' cost-effective and common-sense solutions, Manitobans – whether they live in rural areas or the city – will never get the kind of emergency medical care they deserve.

Want to get this by e-mail?

Contact us to get this 5-minute monthly update delivered to your inbox.

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