



5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Thursday, May 28 through Sunday, May 31, 2015, many of your MGEU leaders and activists attended the Manitoba Federation of Labour Convention in Brandon.

While there, we took the opportunity to send a clear and united message to Premier Greg Selinger: Enough is enough! It's time for a fair and reasonable offer!

Donning "Still Without a Contract" stickers, your leadership, activists, and delegates from other unions reminded the Premier that nearly 25,000 MGEU members have been without a new contract for over a year, with some as many as two years.

The Civil Service, Community Support and Local 220, the Technical/Professional/Paramedical Central Table, the All-Nations Coordinated Response Network, Manitoba Housing, the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba — thousands of our members who provide the day-to-day services that Manitobans rely on — remain in limbo at the bargaining table.

We reminded him that our members accepted wage freezes only to see 5% of their co-workers' jobs eliminated. And that you are

providing more services to more people with fewer staff and resources.

Is it any wonder that our Bargaining Committees are profoundly frustrated and our members increasingly angry and disillusioned?

With the media on hand, we're hopeful the Premier and his government got our message: **a fair and reasonable offer is not too much to ask!**

Ratification Review

Members of **St. Amant Community Residential Programs** (Local 178) voted overwhelmingly for strike action in March. As a result, their Committee was able to send a strong message when they returned to the table with the employer. After a tentative agreement was reached, members ratified a new contract in May.

The University College of the North (Locals 69 and 70) Bargaining Committee, whose members voted to reject a tentative agreement in December, returned to the table with the employer in March, and will be voting on whether to accept the employer's final settlement offer on June 10 and 15, 2015.

The Child and Family Services Central MB (Supervisors) (Local 264) Bargaining Committee and the employer recently reached a tentative agreement, which the members will have a chance to vote on June 10, 2015.

Welcome to the June edition!

Here's what's been happening in our union over the past month.

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.

Strike Watch

After reaching an impasse with the employer, the newly merged **Liquor and Gaming Authority** (Locals 425 and 426) Bargaining Committee has called a strike vote for June 9, 2015 in Winnipeg and Brandon.

Meanwhile, 120 members of **Family Visions** (Local 303) in Brandon, who recently voted to reject a final offer, are also poised for a strike vote.

Get your Regular Check-Up!

Is your Component or Local in bargaining these days? Look for the "**At the Bargaining Table**" button on mgeu.ca. It's updated regularly, so check back frequently for the latest bargaining news.



In Your Workplace

Main Street Project Labour/Management Relations Moving in Right Direction - At the invitation of both management and staff, I recently toured **Main Street Project**, an amazing facility that is there everyday for Winnipeggers facing life on the streets. It was great to see management and staff striving to get back on track as a team, something we've been working with members on for some time.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as Workplace Hazard - In a meeting with the Minister of Labour this month, I shared with her the union's concerns about the growing incidence of PTSD in fields ranging from corrections to child protection. I'm sure this will be the first of many discussions around the need for legislation to address this critical workplace issue.

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

THE BIG PICTURE

10th Annual SAFE Roads Campaign Kicks Off

On May 14, the 10th Annual SAFE Roads campaign kicked off for the summer.

A joint initiative targeted at educating motorists to slow down when driving past construction projects, road maintenance workers and emergency responders, the campaign includes radio and transit ads and billboards. The MGEU is proud to be a sponsor of the initiative, along with the Cities of Brandon and Winnipeg, and other unions and associations.



Proud to join (from left): Mayor Brian Bowman; Minister Erna Braun; Chris Lorenc, E.D. of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association; Minister Steve Ashton; and Bryan Luce, V.P. of Manitoba Hydro for SAFE Roads campaign kick-off.

In The News



A few weeks ago, I expressed our members' concerns about the state of rural emergency medical services on the **Winnipeg Free Press** editorial page.

Many Manitoba paramedics are continuing to leave their communities for Winnipeg or other provinces where wages are better and working hours are shorter and more predictable. Manitoba is also not graduating enough paramedics to take the place of those that leave, meaning ambulances needed in rural areas are increasingly unavailable due to staffing shortages.

This can't go on. The recommendations of the **EMS Review** must be implemented now!

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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