
**REPORT OF THE
YOUNG MEMBERS' COMMITTEE
TO THE MGEU 66TH CONVENTION 2021**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Area 1	VACANT	Area 7	James Alexander
Area 2	VACANT	Area 8	Valdine Flaming
Area 3	Hannah Prodan	Chair	Kimberly Ross
Area 4	Kara-Jean Miller	Board	Brian Wilson
Area 5	Kimberly Ross	Staff	Andy Regier, Research Analyst
Area 6	Jonathan Lipson		Betty Harrison, Administrative Assistant

THE YOUNG MEMBERS' STANDING COMMITTEE (YMC)

The MGEU Young Members' Committee continues to work to fulfill our mandate to educate, inform, and encourage participation in the Union. Despite facing challenges of the global pandemic, the YMC put together an online module with the Membership Education Unit to provide a safe space for young union members to learn about the Union and how to get more involved. The Committee also hosted guest speakers to share information on the MGEU, other labour organizations, and community groups.

INFORMING YOUNG MEMBERS

One of the key roles of the YMC is to encourage young members' participation in all areas of the Union. To fulfill our mandate in this area, the YMC planned and held an online outreach sessions with MGEU members under the age of 35. The objectives of the session was to:

- Demonstrate various entry points into the union by informing participants on the Union's basic structure.
- Barriers to getting involved in the Union: what are they and how do we address them.
- Educate members how and why to participate: relevance of unions historically and today.
- Feedback from participants on how to engage members <35.
- Indirectly demonstrate - through sharing personal stories - how being a leader in the Union can assist in one's personal and professional development.
- Identify and grow more activists.
- Mentoring opportunity for YMC members.

The members who participated in the session and provided feedback through the course evaluations indicated:

- 84% of participants rated the session excellent/very good.
- 92% said they would be more very likely/likely to get involved in the Union.
- 100% of respondents indicated that they would be interested in taking more courses.

COMMITTEE EDUCATION

This term, the YMC invited numerous guests to our meetings to share information about their respective roles, personal and professional career path, and lead a question and answer discussion. The following guests joined our Committee meetings to share information on the work they do and their career path:

- **David Popke - MGEU Workers Compensation Specialist**
Provided a presentation including an overview of WCB principles, the process of filing a claim, his role at the MGEU, and guidance if you are injured on the job.
- **Samantha Probetts - MGEU Pension and Benefits Specialist**
The Committee heard an overview on workplace benefits and the pillars of the pension system, the importance of workplace pensions, and planning ahead.
- **Breigh Kusmack - MGEU Campaign Organizer**
Shared information on MGEU's campaigns and the role of an organizer in the Union. The Committee was provided with ways to become involved in organizing activities and fight back campaigns.
- **Kevin Rebeck - Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL), President**
Outlined the important work of the MFL as the central labour body in Manitoba and some key issues they are working on.
- **Brianne Goertzen - Manitoba Health Coalition, Executive Director**
Discussed the message of the Manitoba Health Coalition as an advocate for public health care and highlighted the push for a national pharmacare program and Seniors Advocate in Manitoba.
- **Bernie Wood - Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), Manitoba Representative**
Shared his story of professional growth and labour activism, the role of the CLC in Manitoba in supporting Labour Councils, and a province-wide Labour Council overview.
- **Melissa Dvorak - Winnipeg Labour Council (WLC), President**
Newly elected WLC President shared her path to becoming President, the work and history of the WLC, and priorities for the future.
- **Joel Dudeck - Myers Weinberg**
The YMC joined the MGEU Pension and Benefits Committee for a presentation on wills, estates, and health care directives.

The Committee would like to thank all of those who shared their knowledge and experience with the YMC during the last term. We believe that informing members about the services provided by MGEU staff, hearing the stories and work of other leaders in labour and community activism is crucial to the development of the MGEU YMC members.

BUILDING SOLIDARITY

During our regular meetings we discussed the ongoing activities in our respective Areas, workplace issues we are dealing with, ideas for how to resolve them, and to share our personal achievements. One of the priorities we implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic was to emphasize a more personal "check-in" at each meeting where we shared personal struggles and coping techniques. We learned through our shared experiences and common thoughts and feelings as we go through this unprecedented situation.

Thanks to MGEU staff: Sandy Ironside, Betty Harrison, and Laurie Bleeks for assisting the Committee over the last three years.

We also want to thank past members: Rebecca Clifton, Chris Crozier, Michelle Boisvert, Jacklyn Goundry, Kelsi Montani, Andrew Wright, and Emily Dufour for their participation on the YMC this past term.

In Solidarity,

MGEU Young Members' Standing Committee